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A Palestinian hurls a rock with a sling during a demonstration on the outskirts of Hebron in the direction of Halhoul. (Reuters wirephoto)

Gaza mayor quits as three more die

TEL AVIV, March 26, (Reuters): Three more Palestinians died from Israeli bullets today amid widespread protests in occupied areas and the resignation of the Israeli-appointed mayor of Gaza, Arab sources said.

They said Majed Hussein Dheeb, 19, was shot dead during clashes with the army in Kufir Thulth near Nablus and that the army immediately snatched his body.

Hospital officials said Awad Qassem Ibrahim, 30, died on the operating table after he was shot by troops during the demonstration.

An army spokesman confirmed that one Palestinian died in

hospital following a demonstration in Kufir Thulth in which protesters hurled stones, metal bars and bottles at soldiers.

"The army patrol was attacked from all over and they had to shoot to save their lives," the spokesman said.

He said another Palestinian was wounded by gunfire and the army was still checking Arab reports that a second protester was shot dead.

A military spokesman earlier confirmed that a Palestinian identified as 21-year-old Ayed Saleh, died of gunshot wounds suffered last night during demonstrations near Zawata village in which protesters blocked roads and hurled stones at Israeli cars.

The killings raised to 110 the number of Palestinians who have died during a 15-week-old uprising against Israeli rule in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. One Israeli soldier has also been killed during the violence.

Palestinian sources said Gaza mayor Hana Turkamni resigned on Thursday in response to calls from the underground leadership of the uprising.

Israeli military censors delayed publication of the news, announced only today, for several hours.

Rashed Shawwa, a deposed Palestinian mayor of Gaza, said Turkamni was an employee in the Interior Ministry appointed by the Israelis to act as mayor.

He said of his resignation: "It is going in line with what has been going on for the past four months."

In the 11th leaflet issued by the United National Leadership of the Uprising last week, March 26 was declared a day of struggle against all non-elected town, village and refugee camp council members who refused to resign.

The leaflet urged "the masses to severely punish all those who do not comply with the national consensus and refuse to resign."

Slogans

In the town of El-Bireh, hundreds of Palestinians hurled stones at the municipality building, carried placards and shouted slogans calling on the local council to resign, Arab sources said.

The Palestine Press Service (PPS) said a boy of 17 was seriously wounded during clashes with the army in Sair village near Hebron.

News photographers said Hebron was declared a closed military area and roads leading to Ramallah from Jerusalem had restricted access. The army said it was checking the report.

In Bethlehem, where a soldier was the first Israeli to die last Sunday in the uprising, about 100 youths hurled stones and bottles at the police station from rooftops and set fire to tyres in the streets, eyewitnesses said.

They said troops fired tear gas, rubber bullets and live ammunition during two hours of clashes in the alleyways of Bethlehem, where slogans on the walls called on municipal workers to resign.

(Continued on Page 2)

US Secretary of State to visit Mideast again

Shultz holds talks with Palestinians

WASHINGTON, March 26, (Agencies): Secretary of State George Shultz met today with two members of a group affiliated with the PLO. The State Department said Shultz will go to the Middle East next week to again push a US peace initiative.

Professors Edward Said of Columbia University and Ibrahim Abu Lughud met for more than an hour with Shultz at his invitation. The two professors are members of the Palestine National Council, the parliament-in-exile of the PLO.

Arrange

"We conveyed to Secretary Shultz the urgent need to lift Israel's occupation of the West Bank and Gaza as a preparatory step on the road to achieving peaceful coexistence between Palestinian Arabs and Israeli Jews," Said said after the meeting.

The professor earlier said he had been in touch with PLO chairman Yasser Arafat about the session with Shultz.

The secretary, whose last Mideast peace-seeking trip was a month ago, has been trying to arrange negotiations that would

lead to a settlement between Israel and the Palestinians. Israel rejects PLO participation in any negotiations.

Department spokesman Charles Redman said Shultz made the decision to return to the Middle East yesterday after meeting Philip Habib, his chief negotiator on Mideast problems. He will arrive in occupied Jerusalem on Sunday, April 3, and visit Jordan, Egypt, Syria and Saudi Arabia the following week, Redman said.

State Department spokeswoman Phyllis Oakley yesterday called the visitors "prominent Americans with an intimate knowledge of contemporary Middle Eastern politics." She also confirmed they are members of the Palestine National Council.

Permission

Under US law, administration officials are barred from meeting with PLO officials, but Mrs Oakley stressed that the two guests are US citizens and said the meeting did not represent a change in US policy.

Asked by telephone yesterday if he received permission from Arafat to attend the session, Said

replied he did not need such a "green light."

He added, however, "we did notify chairman Arafat, and that was fine with him—absolutely." He said he and Abu Lughud were interested in "an exchange of views" with Shultz. They want to know more about the US proposals for Arab-Israeli negotiations and "we're going to tell him about the Palestinians' view of the matter," Said said yesterday.

Israeli Ambassador Moshe Arad protested Shultz's invitation to the two as in conflict with a 13-year US policy against dealing with the PLO, which is pledged to dismantling Israel as a Jewish state.

Shuttle

For several weeks, Shultz has been trying to open negotiations by May 1 to provide self-rule for the Palestinians and move toward an overall Middle East peace agreement. The plan, designed to overcome Israeli objections to talking to the PLO, envisions participation in talks by PLO-approved Palestinians as part of a Jordanian delegation.

None of the parties in the region has accepted the plan.



Shultz

In January, Shultz met in Washington with two Palestinian Arabs, Hanna Siniora, a Jerusalem editor, and Fayez Abu Rahme, a Gaza lawyer.

During a Mideast shuttle trip last month, Shultz tried to arrange a meeting in Jerusalem with 15 Palestinian Arabs, but none showed up, apparently by

(Continued on Page 2)

UN sending team to Iran to examine gas attack victims

NICOSIA, March 26, (Reuters): The UN Security Council today switched the focus of its investigation into the conflict with both sides agreeing to peace talks and signs of growing concern at a mounting death toll from chemical attacks.

The United Nations said two experts would visit Iran to examine chemical attack victims, while both Tehran and Baghdad accepted invitations to talk peace separately at the UN.

Iran and Iraqi opposition Kurds say Baghdad killed 5,000 people and wounded as many again in mustard gas, nerve gas and cyanide shell attacks on the Kurdish town of Halabja last week.

A UN spokesman announced that the team would include a physician and its stay in Tehran would be of short duration.

The UN Secretary-General Perez de Cuellar has already condemned Iraq's use of poison gas. Iran asked earlier this week for a UN mission to be sent to the area.

According to the UN announcement, the two experts will only see victims in Iran and not enter occupied Iraqi territory.

Investigation

Many of the Halabja casualties, including Iranians as well as Iraqi Kurds, are reported to have been taken to hospitals in Tehran.

The UN has balked at carrying out an investigation in Iraqi territory without the assent of the Baghdad government.

Moments before the announcement, Iranian UN Ambassador Mohammad Mahallati, emerged from a meeting with Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar and told reporters he had been told of the inquiry mission.

He said it would arrive in Tehran on Monday, but hedged when asked whether it would also go to the Halabja region, saying only: "We shall see."

Mahallati, when asked what actions he hoped the Security Council would take after receiving the UN team's report, said: "In previous cases, there were some unilateral decisions by some European countries who made a ban against some chemical substances to be exported to Iraq."

"I think that now, after this extensive use of chemical warfare... this is a time for the Security Council to... adopt a decision on an international sanction against Iraq (obtaining) chemical substances which might be used for chemical weapons."

The UN has sent a four-man chemical warfare mission to Iran on several occasions since 1984. They found that Iraq had repeatedly used mustard gas and nerve gas, in violation of the 1925 Geneva protocol outlawing chemical warfare. Iraq has denied the charges.

Mahallati also confirmed his government would send an emissary to New York for separate talks that Perez de Cuellar is planning to hold with representatives of Iran and Iraq, beginning next week.

Mahallati said he did not know the identity of the Iranian special envoy and had not yet been instructed to announce when he would be in New York.

"But definitely our emissary, as has been confirmed by our President (Ali Khamenei), will come," he said.

Perez de Cuellar last week asked Iran to send a senior official for talks with him on March 30 and 31.

Threat to march in the nude

MANILA, March 26, (Reuters): Thousands of bar girls threatened to march nude through Manila to protest against plans to close night clubs, honky-tonk saloons and discos in the tourist district.

"We will not carry placards," one dancer said. "We will write our protests on our nude bodies."

Felix Espiritu, head of the bar owners group, said he expected about 60,000 women to march through the Philippines capital.

Police commander Brigadier General Alfredo Lim said last week the government planned to padlock the bars because they were a "haven for immorality and crimes."

Baghdad vows to fight 'with all available weapons'

Missiles fired at Tehran

NICOSIA, March 26, (Agencies): Iraq fired two long-range missiles into Tehran today and vowed to "level" Iranian cities as the two Gulf war foes battled for mastery of the Kurdish mountains, just east of key Iraqi oil fields.

President Saddam Hussein summoned Iraq's ruling Revolutionary Command Council to a meeting that declared Baghdad was resolved to fight "with all available weapons" until Tehran agrees to a settlement of the 7 1/2-year-old war.

The RCC statement stopped short of an outright admission that Iraqi troops have used outlawed poison gas while combating Iran's slow advance in the northeast. It acknowledged that Iraq lost some territory to the Iranians.

Launched

The official Iraqi news agency, said one Al Hussein missile was launched at 2 pm (1100 GMT) and the second a minute later.

Tehran's official Islamic Republic News Agency, said one projectile hit an orphanage and the other a residential neighbourhood, killing seven civilians and wounding a number of others.

The Soviet Union has agreed to pull out its estimated 115,000 troops from Afghanistan but the UN-mediated peace talks have stalled over a US demand that, in return for an end to aid Afghan rebels, Moscow must make cuts in military supplies to the Kabul government.

US officials and many legislators had begun to question the decision to equip the rebels with Stingers since an incident last June in which a local Afghan guerrilla commander either sold up to 30 of the portable, shoulder-fired missiles to Iran or was forced to hand them over.

Suspend

In Geneva, Pakistan's chief negotiator at UN-sponsored Afghanistan peace talks said today that an agreement could be clinched if the Soviets would agree with the United States to suspend all aid to the warring parties.

Acting Foreign Minister Zain Noorani said that since another outstanding issue, that of a transitional government, appears to have been resolved in principle "we feel that as soon as the two guarantors resolve the issue of symmetry, the instruments can be signed."

Action

An Israeli official was reported last week to have threatened a pre-emptive strike against the Chinese CSS-2 medium-range missiles which Saudi Arabia has purchased.

President Reagan on Friday warned Israel against any such action. A White House spokesman said Washington was urging

the Iraqi agency quoted an unidentified military spokesman as saying: "The only reply we have to those who refuse peace and attack our cities and borders is death and destruction. We are going to... level their cities."

Iraq has fired 112 long-range missiles into Tehran and Qom, seat of Iran's religious hierarchy, in the unprecedented month-old inter-city missile duels that have killed hundreds of civilians.

Tehran says it fired 43 such projectiles into Baghdad, a city of five million, and dozens into other Iraqi cities since Feb. 29.

Bombed

Tehran radio reported that Iraqi warplanes bombed residential sections of the western city of Ilam today.

The Iranian agency said Iranian fighter-bombers attacked troop concentrations in northeast Iraq, where Iranian Revolutionary Guards were reported thrusting into the Kurdish vital Kirkuk oil fields.

It said other Iranian warplanes "heavily bombed" Iraqi troop concentrations and defence lines around the strategic southern port of Basra.

It was the third straight day the Iranians have hit that sector. An

estimated 250,000 Revolutionary Guards and "Bastji," or volunteers, have been massed east of Basra for weeks for a long-expected offensive.

Baghdad radio reported three Iranian warplanes were shot down as they tried to bomb targets in the embattled Kurdistan province today. All three were US-built F-56s, it said.

Downed

Iran reported a Soviet-built Iraqi Sukhoi SU-22 was downed today.

Iraq said its Air Force, which outnumbered Iran's by 8-1, flew 343 combat missions, the highest one-day total in a year, yesterday.

Most were attacks on Iranian forces in Kurdistan east of Kirkuk oil fields, which produce some 1.5 million barrels of oil a day, or more than half of Iraq's current output.

INA reported shelling on Dardandikhan in northeast Iraq.

Belgium said it would pull its minesweeping force out of the Gulf on July 1 unless the situation dramatically worsened. The ships have been there since last November as part of Western efforts to ensure freedom of navigation.

GCC will back Saudis in case of Israeli raid

KUWAIT said yesterday any Israeli strike against Saudi Arabia's newly-acquired Chinese missiles would be considered an act of aggression against all six states in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

Acting Premier and Foreign Minister, Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed, told reporters: "Our relations with Saudi Arabia are within the context of the GCC and we believe that aggression against any Gulf state means aggression against all other countries in the GCC."

Asked if the subject would be discussed in an emergency GCC foreign ministers' meeting, Sheikh Sabah said it was up to Saudi Arabia to make such a request. If it did, all delegations would take part in the discussions, he added.

An Israeli official was reported last week to have threatened a pre-emptive strike against the Chinese CSS-2 medium-range missiles which Saudi Arabia has purchased.

President Reagan on Friday warned Israel against any such action. A White House spokesman said Washington was urging

Space debris lights up Texas sky

DALLAS, March 26, (Reuters): A Soviet rocket burned up during re-entry into the earth's atmosphere over Texas yesterday, igniting a dramatic light show across the night sky.

"All of a sudden a stream started up to the southwest and just streamed down across," said Kevin Hill who witnessed the re-entry in Tyler, Texas, a 100 miles (160 km) southeast of Dallas.

"It was just a beautiful multiple stream of blue and gold meteors."

Lieutenant Colonel Ivan Pinnell, spokesman at the North American Aerospace Defence Command, said the debris had entered the atmosphere at about 10:30 pm yesterday (0330 GMT Saturday) and had taken about a minute to burn up.

He said three or four pieces of space debris enter the earth's atmosphere every month.

"This was different in that it happened over a populated area at night so it put on quite a firework display," he said.

He said the sight had been visible from a broad area of Texas and into neighbouring Arkansas.

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آج کے اردو صفحات

- امریکہ نے افغان مجاہدین کو اسٹورمز ایلون کی فزائی روک دی
- جیٹو ذرا کرات ایک ہفتے اور جاری رہیں گے
- مقبوضہ علاقوں میں تین مزید فلسطینی ہلاک
- سعودی عرب پر جارحیت غلبی ممالک پر حملہ بھی جائے گی
- دست افروز شیعہ محمدی ذلیل سبب بنی

WEATHER

TEMPERATURE will be around normal with moderate to fresh north-westerly wind causing dust.
State of sea: moderate to rough
High water: 9.00 am, 5.30 pm
Low water: 2.00 am, 12.30 pm
Sunrise: 5.44 am
Sunset: 6.14 pm
Maximum temperature recorded:
Kuwait: 31°C 88°F
Ahmad: 25°C 77°F
Fahla: 28°C 82°F
Maximum temperature expected:
Kuwait: 27°C 81°F
Ahmad: 22°C 72°F
Fahla: 24°C 75°F
Minimum temperature recorded:
Kuwait: 15°C 59°F
Ahmad: 18°C 64°F
Fahla: 17°C 63°F
Maximum humidity recorded:
Kuwait: 38 per cent
Ahmad: 85 per cent
Fahla: 88 per cent
Maximum humidity expected:
Kuwait: 45 per cent
Ahmad: 70 per cent
Fahla: 75 per cent

INTERNATIONAL

Philippine Congress passes land reform measures

MANILA, March 26. (Agencies): The Philippine Congress's two chambers have passed conflicting land reform measures amid threats of violence from peasant and landlord groups.

After six months of bitter debate, the House of Representatives last night unanimously voted for a bill that would break up massive sugar and coconut plantations while allowing owners to retain some of their land, officials said.

"President (Corason) Aquino will have to play a major part in persuading members of the House of Representatives to soften their stance," Senator Ernesto Maceda said.

Peasant groups and trade unions have warned the government of a bloody uprising if the House bill is implemented, while landowners say they would go to war to keep their property.

Under the House bill, owners can keep seven hectares (17 acres) each and three hectares (seven acres) for their children.

The Senate has passed its own bill that would allow owners only five-hectares (12 acres) and their children none.

Officials of the two chambers were expected to form a committee to reconcile their differences and pass a joint measure when they convene after the Easter holidays.

House Speaker Ramon Mitra described his chamber's bill as

reasonable and realistic and said it would encourage agricultural production.

The 14 congressmen who originally sponsored the measure said the changes made to it in the House made it a corpse. They withdrew their names from the bill late on Thursday and one of them, Bonifacio Gilgado, said the measure was "a treacherous blow to the future of the peasant masses."

Commission

Meanwhile, Aquino today convened a commission to pave the way for Muslim autonomy in the southern Philippines and warned its members to expect harassment from Muslim secessionist rebels.

Aquino flew to Cotabato City in the heart of Mindanao island, home of the country's 5 million Muslims, to swear in the 44 members of the commission, which is to assist Congress in the enactment of an autonomy law.

The ceremonies came one day after six people were killed in clashes between rival Muslim rebel groups fighting for Muslim rule on Mindanao and the Sulu island chain farther south since 1972.

Aquino also ordered an investigation of charges by an anti-nuclear activist that he was tortured for two days and nights at the headquarters of her security force and his companion murdered.

Sri Lankan fishermen killed by Tamil rebels

COLOMBO, March 26. (Reuters): Bodies of six Muslim fishermen, believed killed by Tamil separatist guerrillas at sea, were found washed ashore today in eastern Sri Lanka, the state radio said.

Nine other men who went fishing with them yesterday from Muttur in the eastern district of Trincomalee, were also feared killed, the radio said quoting official sources.

It said the killings were believed by officials to be part of a campaign by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam rebel group to sabotage efforts to resettle people displaced by the island's ethnic violence.

The radio said officials had intercepted radio messages from Tigers' leader Velupillai Prabhakaran to his men to carry out "a campaign of terror" against villagers to sabotage rehabilitation efforts.

The Tigers had killed a Muslim youth in Trincomalee yesterday by slitting his throat, the radio added.

About 2,000 residents of Muttur have sought protection at the Sri Lankan security forces camp there following the killings, the report said.

Officials have blamed the Tigers for the massacre of about 100 Sinhalese in the Trincomalee district since the beginning of this month.

Trincomalee has a mixed population of Sinhalese, Tamils and Muslims.

Political sources said the Tigers' aim was to drive away Sinhalese and Muslims from the eastern region which they claim as part of a Tamil homeland.

Time bomb defused

BANGKOK, March 26. (Reuters): Bomb disposal experts defused a big time bomb with three minutes to spare at a Buddhist shrine in southern Thailand on Thursday, police said.

They believed the 30-pound (14 kg) bomb, found in a room at the base of a 70 feet (23 metre) high statue of Buddha in Narathiwat province, was planted by extremists.



John Poindexter



Oliver North



Richard Secord



Albert Hakim

President's comments could spark legal problems

Reagan declares North innocent

WASHINGTON, March 26. (Reuters): President Reagan, breaking with the tradition of presidential silence on pending court cases, has declared the innocence of former aides facing criminal trials over the Iran-Contra arms scandal.

Reagan's comments to students about former aide Oliver North and former National Security Adviser John Poindexter could bring problems, legal experts said.

They could also stir political controversy, as did former President Richard Nixon in 1970 when he declared Charles Manson guilty of mass murder before Manson was convicted of killing

actress Sharon Tate and others. It is the usual American practice that presidents do not comment on pending criminal trials and in the past Reagan has said only that he knew of no laws that were broken.

On Friday, he went much further.

Pleaded

Taking "just one more" question at the end of a meeting with students visiting the White House, Reagan firmly declared North and Poindexter innocent.

"I just have to believe that they're going to be found innocent because I don't think they were guilty of any wrongdoing or any crime," he said.

"I still think Ollie North is a hero," added Reagan, echoing his 1986 comment to Time magazine shortly after the Iran-Contra scandal broke with the disclosure of secret arms sales to Iran in breach of a US embargo.

North, Poindexter and their co-defendants in the case, retired Air Force General Richard Secord and Iranian-American businessman Albert Hakim, pleaded not guilty on Thursday to charges of conspiracy, theft and fraud.

The theft and fraud charges stem from the alleged diversion of profits from the arms sales to US-backed Contra rebels in Nicaragua. Reagan would not say whether

he might grant pardons to his two former aides. "Any talk about what I might do about pardons or so forth, with the case before the courts, that's something I can't discuss right now," he said.

Defrauding

The four defendants were indicted last week on 23 counts of defrauding the US government by diverting the arms sales profits to the Contras.

Their attorneys have vowed to mount a vigorous defence and suggested their strategy might include issuing subpoenas to Reagan and Vice-President George Bush to testify as defence witnesses.

Nationalists' deadline passes

Police patrol deserted streets of Yerevan

MOSCOW, March 26. (Agencies): Police patrolled the deserted streets of the Armenian capital of Yerevan today as a deadline set by nationalists for the return of the disputed Nagorno Karabakh region to Armenia slipped by.

An Armenian dissident source in Moscow who said he had telephone contact with residents today in Yerevan and Stepanakert, the main town in Nagorno Karabakh, said he was told nationalists had called off the planned public rally in Yerevan. Instead Armenians were told to stay indoors to avoid confrontation with police on the streets while registering a protest at the same time.

"The streets in Yerevan and Stepanakert are completely

empty. Yerevan is like a ghost town, it is completely empty," said Sergei Grigoryants, editor of the unofficial dissident publication Glasnost.

Detained

He said that at least seven nationalist leaders have been detained in the region in the past three days as the deadline approached, apparently to head off the planned demonstrations.

However a member of the Yerevan Communist Party city committee reached by telephone said the situation in the Armenian capital was "normal" and public transportation was operating. He refused to elaborate or answer any further questions.

A telephone operator said the

telephones at the Armenian Ministry of Internal Affairs offices in Yerevan "have been incorrectly replaced on the receivers" and hence were out of order.

Grigoryants said in Stepanakert itself a general strike by the mostly Armenian population was now in its fourth day.

Attempts to reach other Communist Party officials and residents in Yerevan and Stepanakert by telephone from Moscow to get independent confirmation of the situation was proving difficult.

In Moscow, a huge crowd of Armenians pressing for the return of Nagorno-Karabakh gathered at the Armenian cemetery today, eyewitnesses said. Police and KGB security

agents had blocked off the entrance to the cemetery, they said, but a crowd could be seen through the gates. About 400 Armenians unable to enter the cemetery were also demonstrating a few yards away.

Disbanded

The local press reported that the Armenian supreme Soviet (Parliament) disbanded the Karabakh committee of leading cultural figures, which had been organising the campaign for the return of Nagorno-Karabakh.

Authorities had also detained a number of dissidents in the run-up to today's scheduled protest. Artists appeared on official local television last night appealing to people to stay calm and not go out.

Arafat loyalists battle Abu Nidal's men in camp

AIN AL-HILWEH, Lebanon, March 26. (Reuters): Fighters loyal to Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat exchanged machine gun fire with commandos led by Abu Nidal in a refugee camp in southern Lebanon today, Palestinian sources said.

They said a woman and two commandos died in the skirmishes, sparked when a gunman of Arafat's Fatah group stopped a vehicle of Nidal's Fatah Revolutionary Council (FRC) at a checkpoint in Ain Al-Hilweh camp.

Five people have now been killed in two days of clashes. Residents of the camp, where some 80,000 Palestinians live in makeshift homes, said it was the worst inter-Palestinian fighting in the area for several years.

Fanned

Commandos in green military fatigues, brandishing Kalashnikov rifles and rocket launchers, fanned out through the camp's narrow alleys and breeze-block homes.

But the fighting had ended by midday as patrols made up of different Palestinian factions manned key points in the camp. Residents said tension remained high.

Trouble began yesterday when gunmen tried to kill Jamal Suleiman, a former official of the

mainstream Fatah group. The sources said Suleiman survived the hail of bullets but his brother was killed.

In the ensuing 30-minute gun-battle Farid Hourani, Fatah's military commander in the camp, was killed and his four bodyguards wounded.

The sources say tension between Suleiman's men and Arafat loyalists is rooted in the kidnapping last month of two Scandinavian relief workers for 26 days.

Suleiman's supporters were popularly linked with the abduction, which was condemned by Arafat's mainstream PLO.

Support

Southern Lebanon is an important military staging area for PLO attacks on Israel's so-called "security zone" along the border.

Arafat enjoys wide support in Ain Al-Hilweh but the Libyan-backed FRC has extended its influence, switching from a purely clandestine commando role to a paramilitary presence.

Southern Lebanon has become an increasingly important recruiting ground for Abu Nidal.

Ten people loyal to his FRC, including eight girls, were killed in Israeli air raids on Palestinian targets near Sidon this week.

Dole concedes to Bush Dukakis and Jackson close in Michigan

LANSING, Michigan, March 26. (Reuters): Massachusetts Governor Michael Dukakis held a slender lead over black civil rights campaigner Jesse Jackson in the industrial state of Michigan where Democrats vote today on their preferred candidate for US President.

Among Republicans, the contest for the presidential nomination appeared over, with Vice-President George Bush headed for victory. Even Bush's main rival, Senator Robert Dole, seemed to agree.

Dole said yesterday for the second time this week that it "probably was a forgone conclusion" Bush would secure the 1,139 delegates needed to be the nominee at the party's New Orleans convention in August. A source close to Dole said the Senate Republican leader was going to suspend most campaign activity and travel to concentrate on major policy addresses.

Democrats vote today at 576 caucus sites in Michigan, a key auto-manufacturing state. Bush won the state's Republican caucuses on Jan 29.

Opinion polls showed Dukakis holding a narrow lead over Jackson for Michigan's 138 delegates to the Democratic presidential nominating convention in July.

Nationally, Dukakis has accumulated the most convention delegates, an estimated 559 to 531 for Jackson, though still well short of the 2,082 needed to win the nomination.

Jackson was expected to capture a large black vote in Detroit and other Michigan cities, although Detroit's black mayor Coleman Young backed Duk-



Dukakis

akis. Missouri Congressman Richard Gephardt, who needs a win in Michigan to keep his campaign hopes alive, was running third in polls and senators Albert Gore of Tennessee and Paul Simon of Illinois were still further back.

Dukakis, 54, is seen as an experienced governor and expert manager who generates little excitement, in contrast to the charismatic 46-year-old Jackson, a preacher who electrifies audiences but has never held office.

The Massachusetts governor is generally felt to be in the best position to win forthcoming big industrial state contests, culminating in the June 7 California primary.

Party analysts, however, said he had more at stake in Michigan than Jackson.

A victory for Dukakis could give him the psychological edge to propel him toward the nomination, but a loss could slow his momentum and put in doubt his ability to win blue collar votes.

Yamani fails to stop biography publication

LONDON, March 26. (AP):

Sheikh Ahmed Zaki Yamani, former Saudi Arabian Oil Minister, lost his appeal court bid yesterday for a temporary injunction against Monday's official publication of the book "Yamani: The inside story."

Yamani applied for a temporary order blocking Simon and Schuster's release of the book by American author Jeffrey Robinson pending a full hearing next week.

The book is also scheduled to be serialised in the Sunday Express, a London newspaper,

this weekend.

The judge, Lord Donaldson, said a full hearing could not be scheduled until Wednesday. He said it was regrettable when the courts could not act fast enough to "preserve the rights of the parties," but said Yamani should have started court proceedings sooner.

Yamani claimed the author reneged on undertakings not to refer in the book to the Saudi royal family or to the reasons behind his dismissal from the government.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Wire fence

NEW DELHI, March 26. (Xinhua): India will soon erect barbed wire fence along the Indo-Bangladesh border adjoining Assam state, according to an "Indian Express" report yesterday.

Life on Mars

SUNNYVALE, Calif., March 26. (Reuters): Soviet scientists are optimistic about the chances of life on Mars and are tailoring their probes of the red planet in the coming decade toward finding any life, US space experts said yesterday.

Gallantry medal

NEW DELHI, March 26. (Reuters): Twenty-three years after his death in battle an Indian fighter pilot has been awarded a gallantry medal thanks to the recollections of the Pakistani whose plane he shot down.

Ulster violence

LONDON, March 26. (AP): British and Irish government ministers yesterday condemned the renewed sectarian violence in Northern Ireland and appealed to both Roman Catholics and Protestants to repudiate those responsible for it.

Shultz holds talks with Palestinians

(Continued from Page 1)

order of the PLO. In Tunis, Arab League Secretary-General Chedli Klibi welcomed as a "happy idea" the meeting between Shultz and two members of the PLO.

Klibi in a statement also criticised Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir for "tending to block at all costs the path to peace that the American Secretary of State, with difficulty, is trying to clear by trying to speak with those who could help him in his search for a solution for the Middle East."

PLO chairman Arafat said today that his movement rejects any US Middle East peace initiative that does not recognise it as the sole representative of the Palestinian people or the Palestinians' right to self-determination.

Arafat told a news conference in Baghdad that the PLO rejects proposals made by Shultz for an international conference next month to pave the way for a settlement of the Arab-Israeli dispute that envisaged limited self-rule for Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"America still says 'no' to the PLO, 'no' to the Palestinians' right to self-determination, 'no' to the Palestinian state, 'no' to the representation of the PLO at this conference. We say 'no' to this American position," Arafat declared.

Speaking at his heavily guarded military headquarters in the outskirts of Baghdad, Arafat declined to be drawn on the Washington meeting between Shultz and two members of the Palestine National Council.

Gaza mayor quits as 3 more die

(Continued from Page 1)

For the third consecutive day in East Jerusalem, police searched Arab cars and questioned Palestinian passers-by at check points, causing serious traffic jams.

Palestinian sources said the checks were carried out during the few hours when leaders of the uprising permitted shops to open as part of their strategy to halt commercial activity.

The PPS reported that police were preventing Palestinians from entering the commercial centre in East Jerusalem. Troops also arrested scores of Palestinians in Gaza and Khan Yunis today, they said.

The PPS said six Arab children, aged between six and 14, were admitted to Shifa Hospital in Gaza today, suffering from bone fractures after they were beaten by troops who stormed the El-Bureij refugee camp.

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LONDON, March 26. (AP): Sheikh Ahmed Zaki Yamani, former Saudi Arabian Oil Minister, lost his appeal court bid yesterday for a temporary injunction against Monday's official publication of the book "Yamani: The inside story."

Yamani applied for a temporary order blocking Simon and Schuster's release of the book by American author Jeffrey Robinson pending a full hearing next week.

The book is also scheduled to be serialised in the Sunday Express, a London newspaper,

Industrial consumption goes up by 8.3 per cent

Demand for electricity rises

By Fathima Ahmed

INDUSTRIAL progress has considerably increased the demand for electricity in Kuwait but domestic consumption still remains high. About 14.6 per cent of total generated electricity is used for industrial purposes while 47.5 per cent is being used in homes.

Electricity consumption for industry rose from 164 mW in 1979 to 287 in 1986, recording a mean annual growth rate of 8.3 per cent, which is about the same as the overall mean rate of 8.4 per cent, according to the Ministry of Electricity and Water's annual statistical year book.

Modernisation

A major portion of electric power was consumed by the industrial regions — Shuaiba, Mina Abdullah, Mina Al Zour, Wafra, Nuwaiseeb and Kheirah. The Shuaiba power station and its sub-stations supply energy to these regions.

Industrial consumption was expected to rise due to the modernisation of Ahmadi and Mina Abdullah refineries. Power con-

sumption jumped from 227 mW in 1986 to 346 mW in 1987.

Despite the expansion and overall rise in energy generation, demand has been rising continually.

This year MEW expects an estimated increase of between seven and 8.3 per cent in the maximum and minimum (high and low) peak loads. This is based on peak electrical loads of 3480 mW in 1986 and 3740 mW in 1987.

The expected estimated minimum (low) peak load is 4000 mW and maximum (high) is 4050 mW this year.

Generation

Last year the combined power generation capacity was 5741 mW. This includes the capacity of Shuaiba station, Shuaiba — North and South, Doha East and Doha West and Az-Zour, which is yet to reach its installed capacity.

The mean per capita share of electrical energy generated has increased 10-fold while total generated energy has grown 88-fold. Over the last three decades (1957

to 1987) electrical load has multiplied 139 fold while the production capacity has risen 191 fold.

The average rate of growth of electrical energy generated over a five-year period shows a steady rise from 1958 to 1962 (28.7 per cent); 1963 to 1968 (26.4 per cent); then a slight fall from 1968 to 1972 (19.7 per cent), and rising again from 1972 to 1982 (14.4 per cent). From 1983 to 1987 the growth rate has been 9.1 per cent.

Expansion

In the last three decades, however, the growth rate of per capita (mean) consumption has declined from 11.5 per cent to 6.3 per cent. Over a five-year period, from 1983 to 1987, it fell to four per cent, stabilising due to "favourable trends in energy conservation and saturating demand." In the 1970s and 1980s, the highest per capita consumption was 7.2 per cent from 1978 to 1982.

At the same time, the rate of electricity generation totalled 8.7 per cent between 1983 and 1987. From 1978 to 1982, the average growth rate was 13.4 per cent and

from 1973 to 1977 it was 11.5 per cent. This was attributed to steady expansion of the power generation network throughout the country.

In the last 30 years per capita consumption of energy rose 10 fold from 1007 kWh to 9,744 kWh last year. There has been, nearly a 100 per cent increase in the number of consumers in the last 36 years. Today, there are some 243,202 users. Between 1983 and 1987 consumer growth was at an average rate of 0.6 per cent, down from 5.5 per cent between 1978 and 1982 and 12.4 per cent between 1963 and 1967.

Due to stringent action taken against defaulters, MEW was able to achieve a 24.4 per cent increase in revenues from sale of electricity in 1987. The percentage of increase in previous years, for instance 1986, was 2.8 per cent and in 1985, 1.5 per cent.

The total revenue, including that earned from selling brackish and fresh water, rose by 10.9 per cent in 1987, a substantial increase over 1986 when the total revenue was minus 4.4 per cent.



● The director of Hawalli Governorate security, Colonel Abdul Aziz Al Shamlan, presents a military service medal, awarded by HH the Amir, to an officer. The Amir awarded medals to 18 officers and 25 security men. The ceremony was attended by the assistant security director, Colonel Hassan Jassem.

Barges in talks with Soviet media officials

Novosti chief reiterates support for Palestinians

MOSCOW, March 26, (Kuna): A ranking Soviet media official today affirmed his country's pro-Palestinian stance and its refusal to establish relations with Israel if the Jewish state goes on with its aggressive policies against Arab countries.

The remarks were made by head of Novosti news agency Valentin Valin upon the conclusion of a visit here by a delegation of the Kuwait News Agency (Kuna), during which Kuna's representatives asked their Novosti and Tass colleagues for broader coverage of the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Gulf war.

Kuna's delegation was led by the agency's board chairman and director general Barges Hmoud Al Barges, while Valin headed the Soviet side.

Intervene

At the beginning of the meeting, Barges noted that the visit aimed at exchanging views on Arab and international developments, in addition to re-building ties between the two agencies.

On Kuwait's position on the Gulf war and the Mideast conflict, Kuna's chief said: "Alth-

ough Kuwait is small in size, it plays a big and effective role in boosting world peace through a neutral and balanced policy in dealing with the superpowers."

He stressed that the Gulf war threatens international peace and paves the way for others to intervene in the region's affairs directly or indirectly.

Barges elaborated on Soviet media coverage of the Gulf war and the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories, an issue he discussed with Tass officials, calling for an appropriate coverage of these events.

Unveil

Barges said that the Soviet Union has huge amounts of information that can unveil the false democracy in the Zionist entity, which pursues a Nazi ideology aimed at liquidating the Palestinian people.

For his part, Novosti's chief executive hailed the "special and prominent" role Kuwait plays in circulating true and accurate information about developments in the area, wishing Kuwait more progress and hoping that peace can be restored to

the Gulf region.

On the Mideast conflict, Valin said that a solution to the problem was remote if a settlement to the Palestinian cause was not reached, stressing, "there will be some kind of treason to our principles, if we abandon the Palestinian problem."

Opposes

He noted that his country opposes the Gulf war, which causes destruction and loss of life on a daily basis and pointed out Soviet-Kuwaiti meetings in this regard, expressing belief that peace would be near if such cooperation was established among more countries.

Valin reiterated Moscow's call to transform the Arabian Gulf into a demilitarized zone.

The talks were attended by top Novosti officials while Kuna's delegation included board member and assistant undersecretary at the Communication Ministry Faisal Al Majed, chief reporter Hassan Al Sayegh and Kuna's Moscow Bureau chief Khaled Al Tarrah.

Information policy is independent: Sheikh Jaber

MINISTER of Information Sheikh Jaber Al Mubarak Al Hamad yesterday stressed that Kuwait's information policy is independent and active and well trusted by the local, Arab and international media.

Sheikh Jaber's remarks came in a statement to correspondent of the Soviet Radio and Television Viacheslav Katamidze who is currently on a visit here in response to an invitation by the information ministry.

Sheikh Jaber said the ministry seeks media coverage of all events whether cultural, social or of sport interest.

He added that the ministry's efforts are currently centred on increasing the production of scientific and cultural programmes in both the radio and television.

The minister praised the cooperation in the information field between Kuwait and the Soviet Union in accordance with an agreement signed between the two countries governing the exchange of information.

The Soviet correspondent is currently preparing a documentary film highlighting the advancement of the Kuwaiti development.

Sheikh Sabah meetings

ACTING Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed yesterday received Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Rashid Al Rashid who presented board chairman and director general of the agriculture affairs and fish resources authority Sheikh Ibrahim Al Duaij Al Sabah and members of the board on the occasion of their appointment.

Sheikh Sabah also received Minister of Communication Abdalla Abdel Mohsen Al Sharan and chairman and members of the board of Food and Agricultural Products Company.

Sheikh Sabah later received Abdel Aziz Al Mesad.

12 accidents

THERE were 12 traffic accidents in Kuwait on Friday. Four occurred in Hawalli, three in Ahmadi and five in Jahra.

Next OIC meeting to be held in S. Arabia

AMMAN, March 26, (Xinhua): The 17th conference of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) yesterday decided that the next OIC foreign ministers' meeting will be held in Saudi Arabia next year.

The chairman of the current OIC ministers' meeting, Jordanian Foreign Minister Taher El Masri announced at the OIC meeting, that the decision was made under Saudi request.

The OIC Foreign ministers' meeting is held annually to discuss the latest issues facing the Islamic World of 46 OIC members.

Masri also announced that the 19th OIC ministerial meeting will be held in Egypt in 1990 during which the 6th Islamic Summit will be held in Senegal.

Syria objected the OIC resolution to hold the 19th ministerial conference in Cairo in 1990, according to a well-informed sources here.

Farouq Al Shara, Syrian Foreign Minister and head of the Syrian delegation said his country considers that it is for every country to decide the place of the 19th ministerial meeting.

Al Shara said that his country has reservation for convening the 19th OIC ministerial conference in Cairo.

ACO team for Tunis

A DELEGATION of the Arab Cities Organisation (ACO), led by the organisation's secretary-general Abdel Aziz Al Adani yesterday left for Tunis to take part in the meeting of the 27th session of the ACO's permanent office held there March 28 to 30.

Meanwhile, ACO's director-general Taleb Al Taher said that during the session, the conferees will discuss a report on the actions of the fund for the development of Arab cities, loans granted by the fund and projects executed through these loans.

Al Taher said that the office will examine means of backing the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories against the Israeli occupation.

Building materials prices increase

A KUWAITI daily newspaper has interviewed a number of Kuwaitis who have opted to take a building plot and a government loan rather than a National Housing Authority house. The majority of those interviewed complained that the recent rise in the price of building materials had made it very difficult for them to complete their houses within the 54,000 dinar loan available from the Kuwait Credit and Savings Bank.

Intervene

Mohammed Hussein Ahmad told the paper that the most commonly used type of brick is the white brick, which used to cost KD12 per cubic metre five months ago. Today it costs more than KD17. Black bricks (15x35 cms) used to cost KD50 per thousand, but have now risen to KD75. Tiles 25 cms square used to be

KD65 per thousand but have now gone up to KD90 and timber has also risen by fifty per cent.

Ahmad said that the situation was so serious that he felt that the Ministry of Commerce and Industry should intervene to curb these price rises. He pointed out that the KD 54,000 loan used to be sufficient to pay the entire costs of building a house but that it was now fast becoming inadequate.

Labourers

Supporting Ahmad's opinion, Abdullah Al Naser added that the price of steel used to be KD76 per ton just five months ago, but has now soared to KD 170 per ton. He said that surveyors used to charge half a dinar per square metre, but now most of them would not settle for less than 800 fils, and that tile-layers had increased their charges from 600

fils per square metre to KD 1.250.

A retired man, Naser Sultan Al Naser, who is building his own house, told the newspaper that the labour costs per house used to be about 12,000 dinars. Nowadays, however, there is a great shortage of labourers who have to be recruited through companies who are profiting from the situation by charging impossible prices.

Hamoud Saeed Al Adwani, an employee at the Communications Ministry stressed that the price rises affected all kinds of building materials including aluminium which has doubled from KD1,000 to KD2,000. However, he pointed out that the price of locally produced cement had remained stable as had the fees of a supervising engineer which have remained at around KD 5 or 600.

Media coverage hailed

LONDON, March 26, (Kuna): Chairman of the Federation of Arab News Agencies (Fana) Barges Hmoud Al Barges today hailed the European media coverage of the 15-week-old Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories and the Iraq-Iran war.

Commenting on the outcome of the meeting of the joint executive committee of Arab and European news agencies held recently in Vienna, Barges also praised Euro-Arab cooperation in the exchange of information.

In addition to Barges, the meeting was attended by Fana's secretary-general, Farid Ayyar and a number of directors of East and West European news agencies.

Upon conclusion of the meeting, it was decided that the fifth general conference of Arab and European news agencies will be held in Tunis next Nov 8, to resume a constructive dialogue between the two sides.

The first such conference was held in Tunis in November of 1976, while the last was convened between the two sides in Prague in November 1984.

Fana sources said that cooperation between Arab and European news agencies has made great strides particularly in the field of exchanging news.

Inspection tour

MINISTER of Defence, Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmed yesterday paid an inspection visit to the Armoured 35th Brigade accompanied by top defence officials.

Sheikh Nawaf listened to a brief report on the brigade's assignments in peace and war-times and later inspected units of the brigade including the training department and computer room.

The minister urged the officers and troops to keep vigil and become the protective shield of the state.

Hussein meets Ibrahim Al Baho

THE adviser at the Amiri Diwan Abdul Aziz Hussein yesterday received Kuwaiti Ambassador to Iraq Ibrahim Al Baho and discussed the two countries' relations.

Al Baho has earlier been the country's ambassador to Amman.

Hussein also received secretary-general of the Arab Association for Advancement of Childhood and former Minister of Education Hassan Al Ibrahim.

Uprising a turning point in Palestinian struggle

ARAB League Assistant Secretary-General, Abdulmuhsin Zalzala yesterday said that the Palestinian popular uprising in the occupied Palestine has succeeded in re-surfacing the Palestinian question at an international level.

In a statement to Seyassah, Zalzala described the Palestinian uprising as "a birth of a new generation and a new will and it is a basic turning point in the struggle of the Palestinian people."

He pointed out that Arab League delegation including him and member of the Palestine Liberation Organisation executive committee Mahmoud Abbas' coming visit to Riyadh comes up on assignment of the Arab League extraordinary council meeting held in Tunis last January. The visit aims at informing Saudi Arabia with developments inside occupied Arab

Arab League team due in New York for talks

UNITED NATIONS, March 26, (Kuna): A high-level Arab delegation is expected to arrive here tomorrow to begin a round of talks with UN and American officials in search for a global solution to the Middle East conflict.

Led by Arab League Secretary-General Chadli Klibi, the group includes Saudi Arabian Minister of State in the Foreign Affairs Ministry Ibrahim Massoud and possibly high Syrian and Algerian officials.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation will be represented in the New York talks by PLO permanent observer Zehdi Labib Terzi.

The talks will get under way Monday in New York with Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, with the main focus being the proposed international conference on the Middle East.

The UN chief executive will use the meeting to gather additional input for his report on the situation in the Middle East to be issued later this month.

Talks are set with US Secretary of State George Shultz

Drivers to be honoured

THE Kuwait Public Transport Company has decided to honour those of its drivers who have a clean traffic record, in a reception next Monday, KPTC managing director Abdul Wahab Al Haroun told Kuna yesterday.

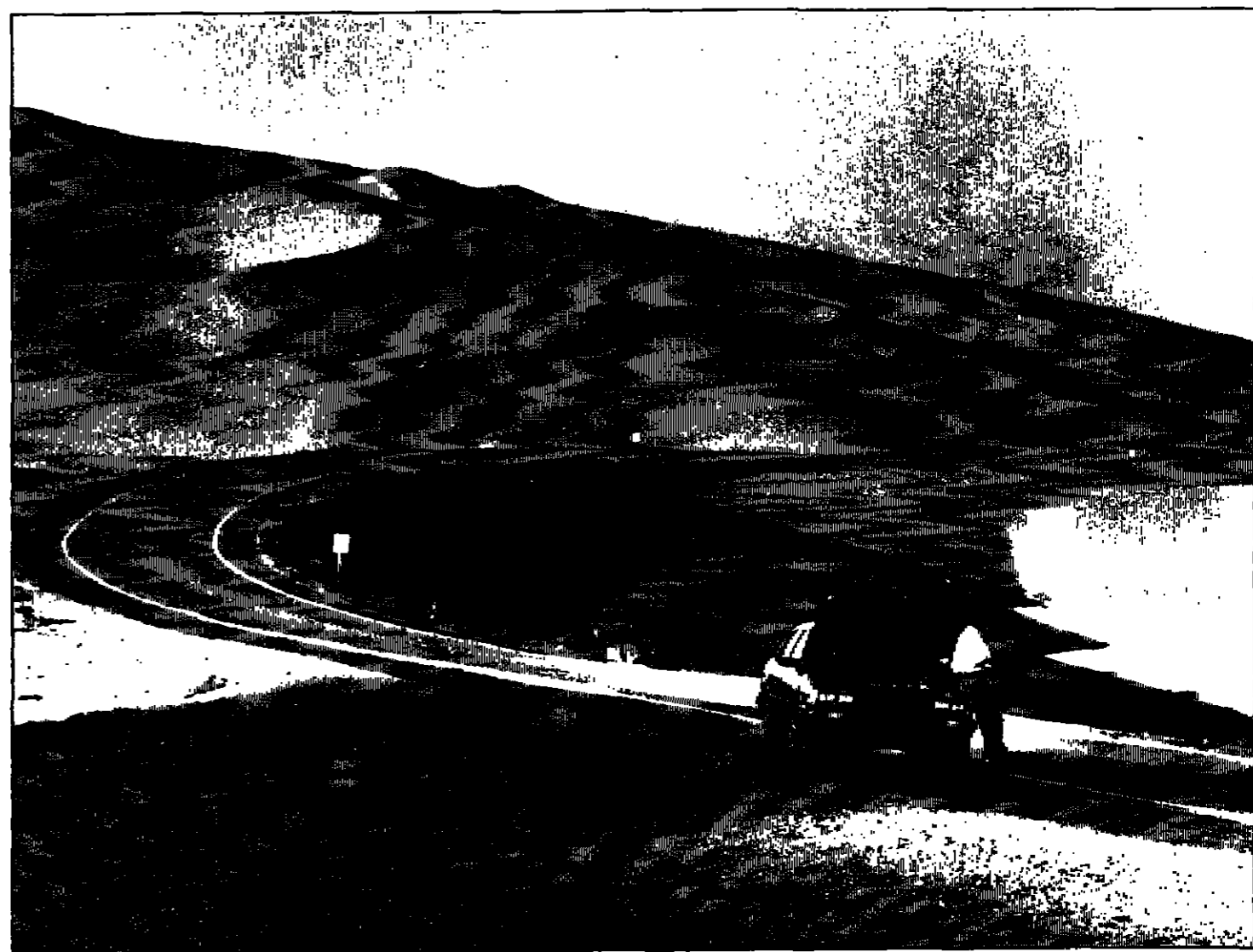
The event is timed to coincide with the GCC Traffic Week, he added.

The honoured drivers will be those who did not violate any traffic rules in 1987, he said.

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KUWAIT ... GULF

Information minister opens Gulf Theatrical Festival

By Lima Al Khelafawi

A COLOURFUL open air parade, with men on horseback, policemen playing bagpipes and students singing songs was held yesterday to inaugurate the first Gulf Theatrical Festival in Kuwait.

The festival was opened by the Information Minister, Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al Sabah. In his speech he said the festival was a good occasion for Gulf artists to meet and further their goals.

A large crowd gathered in the auditorium for the opening show.

The master of ceremonies, Mohammed Al Mansour, presented all the items in an interesting way.

The evening began with a play depicting the history of the theatre movement in Kuwait.

Later there was an excerpt from "Skanah Mourah", a play about a hen-pecked husband performed in 1964.

Outline

The audience applauded the play "Ishat Wa Shoufi" because Kuwaiti actor Ali Al Moufidi was appearing for the first time after his illness.

The quick change of scenery

between plays was appreciated by the spectators.

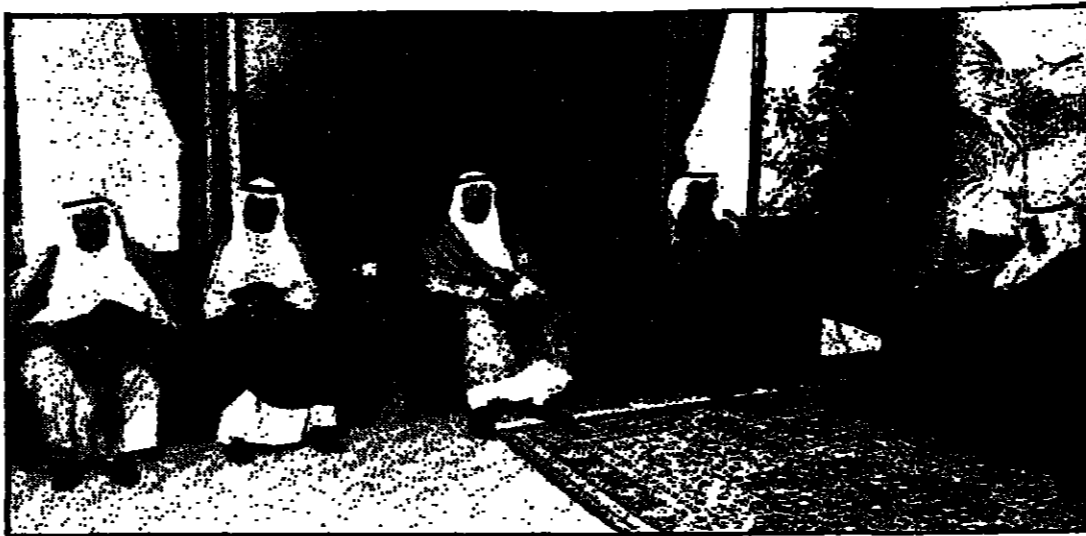
Various speakers gave an outline of the history of Kuwait's theatre from the 1920s to the 1980s.

A number of Kuwaiti songs were sung during the intervals.

At the end of the evening many delegates came onstage and were introduced to the audience.

The festival has attracted artists, critics, directors and theatre lovers from all Arab countries.

During the coming week there will be a number of plays, seminars, debates and other activities to mark the festival.



HH the Amir yesterday met officials of the Public Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fish Resources. The meeting was attended by the State Minister for Cabinet Affairs, Rashed Al Rashed (second right).

Graduation ceremony

A GRADUATION ceremony was held at the faculty of engineering and petroleum of Kuwait University yesterday in which 244 graduates received their certificates.

The ceremony was attended by Interior Minister Sheikh Salem Al Sabah, Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Rashed Al Rashed, Minister of Education and acting Minister of Higher Education Anwar Al Nouri and Minister of Electricity and Water Dr Homoud Al Rqabah.

Arrested

DETECTIVES of Qibla area have apprehended a Kuwaiti on a charge of breaking into six shops, a restaurant and a cafe in the area.

He has confessed his crimes and said he carried them out with two colleagues, and has agreed to guide the police to their homes. Investigations are underway.

Education conference opens



The education minister (right) and the chairman of Kuwait's Teachers Society.

MINISTER of Education Anwar Al Nouri yesterday said the march of the contemporary Arab Education has helped build up the good Arab citizen who benefits his society.

The remarks came in a statement at the opening address of the 18th conference of educa-

tion which is organised by Kuwait Teachers Association on education in the Arab world.

Al Nouri who is also acting Minister of Higher Education said the five-day conference is a call to unify efforts for better education in the Arab world.

18 Kuwaiti women appointed customs officers

FOR the first time, eighteen Kuwaiti women have been appointed as customs officers for Kuwait's borders. They will work on a rota system that involves one day on and two days off.

One of the ladies, Faten Shaker Al Shati, 21, graduated from the customs training course earlier this year and has been working for a month during which time she has already seized several prohibited items. She told a local daily that this is her first job since leaving school.

Fatima Jawad said that although she had been given the opportunity to work in other government establishments she preferred the challenge offered by the customs job. She

explained that the training course involved recognition of various types of drugs and alcohol, methods of inspection, the psychological character of smugglers and their typical behaviour patterns as well as a study of the customs laws.

Sultan Al Fialakawi, superintendent of the Abdali Border Post said that the women have the same duties as their male colleagues. One of his deputies said that the women were particularly useful in searching females entering the country and that hitherto this had to be done by one of the female travellers, which was clearly unsatisfactory.

King Hussein ends visit

MUSCAT, March 26, (Kuna): King Hussein and Queen Noor of Jordan left here today after concluding a two-day private visit to Oman at the invitation of Sultan Qaboos.

They were given a warm send-off at the Salalah airport by Sultan Qaboos and high officials of Oman.

King Hussein was accompanied by his Prime Minister Zeid Al Refai and other Jordanian high officials including the Commander General of the Jordanian Armed Forces Zeid Bin Shaker.

Saudi donation

RIYADH, March 26, (Kuna): The popular committee to assist Palestine's fighters today received about \$750,000 in donations, bring the total to over \$4.5 million, Radio Riyadh reported.

These donations come in response to a call by the Amir of Riyadh, Prince Salman Bin Abdul Aziz, who is also head of the committee which aims at raising money to back the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories.

KUWAIT PRESS DIGEST

Call for unified stand

A KUWAITI daily yesterday called on Arab countries to agree on a solution or a unified stand toward the Middle East problem in order to end the deadlock in the current situation in the area and to limit the "guardianship" of the two superpowers in the region.

Al Rai Al Aom said editorially that negotiations between the two superpowers on the US peace initiative and situation in the Middle East uncovered contradictions that obstruct efforts to reach an agreement on the convening of an international peace conference.

The paper indicated that the United States still adopts Israel's viewpoint concerning Palestinian representation in an international conference and does not recognise the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

The US administration is looking for another representative of the Palestinians with the aim of splitting the Arab stand and displaying Palestinian representation as an Arab problem instead of an Israeli one.

The paper stressed that the two superpowers are dividing responsibility in everything that is related to the Middle East causes including Arab-Israeli conflict and the Iraq-Iran war.

The paper said that the US and the USSR talk about peace efforts in the Middle East then refrain from doing any actual effort despite long years of intensive contacts with concerned parties.

Top commando leader to train Saudi security unit

BONN, March 26, (AP): A West German anti-terrorist expert famous for leading a lightning-fast 1977 commando rescue of 86 hostages said yesterday he has agreed to help Saudi Arabia toughen up its own security forces.

Gen. Ulrich Wegener said he and five other members of the famed GSG-9 commando group are to sign private contracts with Saudi officials at the West German embassy in Riyadh on Monday.

The anti-terrorist experts will spend three years reorganising and training Saudi Arabia's "special security forces" using the GSG-9 as a model, Wegener told reporters.

The West German commandos will be on unpaid leave from the GSG-9 while training the Saudi security unit, Wegener said.

He refused to say how much the contracts with Saudi Arabia were worth or give further details.

Wegener became world famous after the 1977 rescue of 86 people on a Lufthansa flight who were being held hostage by Arab commandos at the airport in Mogadishu, Somalia.

Wegener headed the GSG-9 squad that staged the rescue operation.

GSG-9 stands for Grenzschutz Gruppe-9 (border guard group-9). It is a part of West Germany's Grenzschutz border police.

The 58-year-old Wegener has been commander of the GSG-9 unit stationed in Bonn.

"I am leaving my job in Bonn with mixed feelings," Wegener said, but he added he is looking forward to his next challenge.

The GSG-9's main job is to protect government officials and foreign dignitaries who visit West Germany.

Malaysian minister for Kuwait

KUALA LUMPUR, March 26, (Kuna): Culture and Tourism Minister, Sahabuddin Chik, leaves tonight for Kuwait to join the Malaysian delegation on a drive to attract more West Asian tourists to the country.

He said the delegation would meet several Kuwaiti ministers and tour operators to foster closer relations in the efforts to promote Malaysia.

The promotion drive is necessary in view of the small number of tourists coming here from that region.

He told reporters after opening the Malaysian historical society meeting here, only 8,000 visitors from Arab states came to Malaysia out of the 250,000 who toured South-East Asia annually.

The 24-member Malaysian delegation, including two cooks, left for Dubai three days ago. They will hold performances there as well as in Abu Dhabi, Doha and Kuwait.

Bar association to hold meeting

TUNIS, March 26, (Kuna): The Arab Bar Association will hold a meeting here next Monday under the slogan "all support for the uprising."

The meeting is organised by the Arab bar and the national association of Tunisian lawyers.

Tunisian Prime Minister El-Hedi Baccouche last night received a delegation of the Arab bar permanent bureau headed by its general secretary Farouq Abou Issa, where they discussed the forth coming meeting.

Minister receives KJA board members

MINISTER of Information Sheikh Jaber Al Mubarak Al Sabah yesterday received board members of the Kuwait Journalists Association on the occasion of their election for the next two years.

Sheikh Jaber congratulated the members for the trust they have won and urged them to put up extra efforts for the benefit of the country.



Young girls sing enthusiastically. (Photo by Mohammed Bedaq)



Pictures show Brig Al Saleh hoisting the flag (left), welcoming GCC delegation heads (top right) and congratulating the ideal traffic policemen.



Hungry Bunny letters competition winners

Hungry Bunny's Letter Competition proved an unprecedented success, offering customers a myriad of valuable prizes, with the grand prize of a Renault 21 car.

The happy winner of the Renault 21 was a Ministry of Defence employee Asrar Jaweed, seen here receiving his prize. "In fact, this was my daughter's winning ticket," he said, "she is the lucky one, but we'll sure use her car until she grows up. Thanks Hungry Bunny!"

Up to now, those who have come forward to collect their prizes of KD 500 B.K.M.E. Saving Accounts are Ibtisam Jabar Khaleel, Najat Abdul Aziz Rashed and Mohammed Sameer, Amar Mujbel.

Many more big prizes, such as KD 1,000 B.K.M.E. Savings Accounts, National video cameras, Televisions and VCRs are still waiting to be claimed. Winning cards can be presented at any Hungry Bunny outlet up to 31st March.



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Tariq's message

DOHA, March 26, (Kuna): Qatar's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sheikh Ahmad Bin Seif Al Thani today received a message from Iraq's Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister, Tariq Aziz relating to bilateral relations, the situation in the region and developments in the Arab arena. It was reported.

The message was delivered by the Iraqi Ambassador to Qatar, Anwar Sabri Abdul Razzaq when he called on the Qatari minister today.

Required Urgently Life-guards (Seasonal Employment)

Pls contact: 3929514, 3926847 between 4 pm and 7 pm.



● HH the Amir yesterday sent a cable of congratulations to President H. M. Ershad of Bangladesh on the occasion of his country's Independence and National Day. HH the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah also sent a similar message to the Bangladeshi prime minister.

In Kuwait, a flag-hoisting ceremony and a reception were held yesterday to mark the day. Bangladesh's Ambassador K.M. Shehabuddin, is seen hoisting the flag (left) in the morning and welcoming Kuwait's State Minister for Services Affairs, Issa Al Mazidi, to a reception held at the Holiday Inn in the evening (above).

The Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Saoud Al Osalmi and the Foreign Undersecretary Sulaiman Majed Al Shaheen also attended the reception.

Swedish Embassy requires Secretary/Receptionist

Highly qualified and with excellent knowledge of translation between English and Arabic. Written applications with Curriculum Vitae and references should be addressed to: P.O. Box 21448, 13075 Safat, Kuwait.

Ill-mannered crowd ruin jazz concert

By Keith Wells

ALTHOUGH well over a thousand people showed up at the free concert given by the Kevin Eubanks Trio on Tuesday last week it quickly became obvious that less than ten per cent of them actually wanted to hear the music. The rest just wanted to meet their friends, have a good gossip, show off their best clothes, pose about and generally ruin the whole evening, for anyone who actually wanted to listen to the band.

For a start the concert was forty minutes late in starting because less than a third of the audience had the courtesy to show up on time. The others drifted in as and when they felt like it, drifted about throughout the show and drifted out again when they were bored. The band made the mistake of starting 'softly', hoping, no doubt to build up tension and focus interest as they go into

their stride. No such luck. Some in the audience just kept on chattering, greeting friends, changing seats and generally acting like a mob of philistines. Every time the group tried to play soft, meditative jazz, they were simply drowned out by the inane chatter of the largely teenage audience.

Fluid

When Kevin Eubanks and his sidemen, Eugene Jackson on drums and Rael Wesley on bass, did manage to get going they played some wonderfully fluid and exciting music. A piece called 'Untitled Shapes' showed how brilliantly they could play, the flickering, nervous intensity of the drums urged on by the jittering, skittering rhythms of the electric bass and over the top the soaring, dazzling eloquence of Kevin Eubanks' guitar. For a moment the sheer speed and brilliance of their playing managed to fuse the crowd and all its distractions into a single

organism and wild applause greeted every solo.

But then the Trio tried to play something more complicated and subtle and the crowd degenerated into an unruly, heedless mob of philistines. It was terribly frustrating for the tiny minority who actually wanted to listen to the music. Mercifully, the musicians treated it all as a big joke and were large hearted enough not to be offended by the boorishness of the audience. A drum solo was greeted with howls of approval and the mob started clapping along, thus absolutely preventing any rhythmic improvisation or change of direction. Clapping along to jazz of this sophistication is about as crass as clapping along to Mozart and just as destructive. Then the bass player took over, with a wry smile, and played some simple funky-doo double bass rhythms, which was just about the level the crowd could

cope with. Even then, when he tried to break out of the strait jacket of clapping they would have none of it and lapsed back into disorder. After that it was a lost cause. The Trio bravely played another number but the uproar was never-ending, scores of people just drifted away, one egotist even had the gall to stop and shake hands with Kevin Eubanks in the process, blissfully unaware of just how rudely and stupidly he was behaving.

Noisy

At one point I asked some girl to sit down and be quiet since she had arrived over an hour late and hadn't stopped talking for a second since she arrived. All I got was a load of abuse for my trouble. The tragic thing is that the huge turnout showed that the youngsters in Kuwait are absolutely starved for somewhere to go, something to do together. However, having said that, their behaviour was unforgiv-

ble. Kevin Eubanks is a world class musician who travelled thousands of miles to give a free concert and these ill-mannered people didn't even have the courtesy to shut up and listen to him for more than a few minutes. Had he walked off and left on a record of Michael Jackson at full volume they would probably have been happier.

For the minority who actually wanted to hear some music the evening was a tragedy of wasted opportunity. There were flickers of brilliance, shards of melody and pulsing urban rhythms that promised a great show, but it was impossible to concentrate, the unruly were too numerous, too egocentric and too noisy. Worst of all, although their behaviour was an absolute shame and disgrace they were not even aware of it. After just over an hour, the musicians called it quits and the whole sorry spectacle came to an unlamented end.



(L-R): Hadeel Othman, Elias Kani, Ragini Swaminathan in Delibes' 'The Toyshop.'

Child performers entrance a not-so-well-behaved audience

By Gail Seery

STEPS Studio's first recital performance at the Kuwait English School on Monday and Tuesday of last week was a success, judging both from the audience reaction and the standard of most of the offerings. This was an ambitious programme of miniature ballets, designed to show the work done by teachers and students at the studio.

Altogether some 150 children, from Primary students, aged five and over, to 16 year olds, took part in the show. Not every performance was perfect but it was obvious that a great deal of effort had gone into preparations for the concert, and the overall standard was very high indeed. The soloists, Aleksandra Gray who danced 'The Birdcage Polka' by Strauss, and Danah Hussain who danced the Tarantella, an Italian National Dance, both gave sound performances.

Control It was a great pity that parents and well-wishers in the audience were not as well behaved as their offspring on the stage. Although the show was scheduled to start at 6 pm prompt, people were still arriving much later, which is a discourtesy both to the people struggling to put on a graceful production, and to the young performers who worked so hard to give their best performances.

Again, because of the large number of young children in the audience, the delay at the start meant that their attention was already stretched to its

A step forward



The Bretonne Dance, one of several numbers performed by young dancers.

limits by the time the show began. However, as anyone who has ever tried to stage a show in Kuwait will agree, while you can exercise control over the performers (some of the time) its another matter altogether to control the audience.

When the show did begin the audience was entranced. The first to perform were the very youngest children, dancing 'The Flower Fairies' by Ponchielli. The format of the show was short ballets and set pieces, punctuated by explanations of the stories.

The high spots were invariably the selections of modern music and dancing, particularly the 'Sign of the Times' which was danced with surprising maturity by some senior students. The close of the

first half was memorable, with a Dlibes ballet, 'The Toyshop.' Here the students from the school were admirably supported by Ken Winston as the Toyshop owner, and by Donna Smith a teacher at the school, who gave the students a display of more advanced ballet techniques.

Choreography was done by Mandy Martin, Hilary Sukhon, Donna Smith, to supplement the standard pieces from the Royal Academy of Dancing. A group of students from the Kuwait English School who are taught ballet under the auspices of Steps Studio also participated, as did Kuwait Players who controlled the production element of the show.

In all it was a splendid first effort by the Step Studio.

Tea-party for volunteers

THE Committee of the Handicapped Society held a tea-party at the Kuwait Plaza Hotel last week to express their thanks and appreciation to all the volunteers and supporters of the society.

The head of the committee, Mrs Modi Sultan, welcoming the volunteers thanked them on behalf of the committee and said she hoped that other ladies would be encouraged to come forward and offer their services.

Mrs Ferial Ghantous of the society said that although most volunteers worked directly with handicapped children, others contributed in different ways. Some had helped to establish the medical records and others contributed financially towards the expenses of running the society.

The tea-party was the first one to be held but in future the society, Ferial said, would be able to have such meetings every month to exchange ideas and help improve the work of the society. More than 50 ladies attended the party.



Mrs Modi Sultan.



Some of the staff of KAC's commercial department were honoured for their outstanding performance at a ceremony held recently at the KAC Club. It was held under the patronage of Commercial Director Sheikh Talal Al Sabah and attended by Deputy Director, Commercial Affairs, Ghazi Al Mashan and Public Relations Director Abdullah Al Nafisi. Some 377 staff members attended the ceremony. Above: a staff member receiving the certificate.

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Free Atelier

An exhibition of paintings by Samiya Ahmad Sayyed Omar will be open from March 28 at the Free Atelier Gallery, Arabian Gulf St., near Amir Hospital. It will be open from 8.30 am to 12 noon and 4 to 7 pm.

Ghadi Gallery

Egyptian artist Magdi Kenawy is showing his latest collection of lithographs and prints at the gallery in Salhiya Complex. The exhibition is open daily from 9 am to 12.30 pm and 4 to 8 pm, until March 31.

Sultan Gallery

An exhibition of oil paintings by Pakistani artist Yasmeen Bhamia will be held at the gallery, Al Soor St., from March 28. It will be open daily from 9 am to 1 pm and 5 to 8 pm.

SOCIAL

Story Time

Thursday, March 31, 10.30 am, is story time at the British Council Library. Children of all nationalities between the ages of three and six are welcome.

Salcette United

Whist Drive

Salcette United will hold a Whist Drive-Cum-Tea Party for its members and guests on Friday, April 8, 3.30 pm at Ramada Al Salam Hotel. For details contact D'Costa 2439000, ext. 2537 and Agnello 2460983.

Book Show

English Language Teaching Books will be exhibited at the British Council from April 2 to 4, 9 am to 12 noon, 5 to 8 pm. The exhibition has been organised by the British Council in association with the Longman Group Ltd. and the Kuwait Bookshop. On April 2, the library will be closed from 6 pm for the exhibition's opening.

Kuwait-Welsh Society

The Society will hold "Nosen Lawen" (social evening), 8 pm, April 7. For details phone 3912384; 4874548.

THEATRE

Stepping Out

Kuwait Players presents the comedy 'Stepping Out', directed by Ken Winston with choreography by Donna Smith, at 8 pm nightly, from April 10 to 14 at the Crystal Ballroom, Regency Palace Hotel. First night is gala night—dress black tie or lounge suit.

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

- 2.15 Holy Quran
- 2.30 World News via Satellite
- 3.30 Ibtal Al Ma'laeb: cartoons
- 4.00 News Summary
- 4.05 Magazine D'Actualite
- 4.25 Li'uyoun Hadran: Arabic serial; starring Adel Afana, Abeer Essa
- 5.30 Al Manahil: children's serial, featuring Amal Dabbas, Tayseer Attiya, Rabe'a Shihab
- 6.00 Songs and Music
- 7.00 News Summary
- 7.05 Cultural Programme
- 7.30 Diwanayat Shuara Al Nabt: poetry session
- 8.15 Good Evening and Local News
- 9.00 News in Arabic
- 9.50 Layali Hilmiya: ep. 4, Arabic serial, featuring Hassan Yusuf, Firdous Abdul Hamid, Huda Sultan.

- 10.50 Variety Show: featuring Arab composer Ahmad Sudqi. Hosted by Najwa Azzam.
- 12.00 News Summary
- 12.05 World News via Satellite
- 12.40 Holy Quran/Closedown

KTV 2

- 4.15 Holy Quran
- 4.35 Football: Al Kazema vs Al Rifa'a, Bahrain.
- 6.10 The Lone Ranger: "Walk A Tight Wire". Cartoon serial.
- 6.30 Butterfly Island: the islanders overcome yet another challenge and assist in arresting vandals.
- 7.00 Understanding Islam: a weekly programme on Islamic thought and philosophy.
- 7.30 The Wacky World of Sports: a half-hour lighter look at sports

- ing events.
- 8.00 News in English
- 8.40 Adderly: "Class of '87". Adderly joins a training course on spying. And he suspects one of the trainees is a spy.
- 9.30 He's the Mayor: "And That's the Way it Was". Comedy.
- 10.00 Q.E.D. "Your Child's Diet on Trial". A field survey on the effects of diet on children's behaviour.
- 10.30 Best-Seller: "Space". The mini-series, based on James Michener's novel, continues tonight with the historic landing of man on the moon.
- 12.00 News in Brief/Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown

Please note that programmes and timings are liable to change without notice.

RADIO PROGRAMMES

BBC World Services

- 0000 World News
- 09 News about Britain
- 15 Radio Newsworld
- 30 Musical Masters of the Baroque (ex 13th Play of the Week: Remembrance)
- 0100 News Summary (ex 13th) followed by Play of the Week: 6th The Browning Version; 13th Remembrance contd.; 20th From the Lion Rock; 27th Happy Families
- 0200 World News
- 09 The Sunday Papers
- 15 Canney Row
- 30 Album Time
- 0300 World News
- 09 News about Britain
- 15 From Our Own Correspondent
- 30 Yes Mister
- 0400 News
- 30 Capriccio (ex 27th The Seven Ages of Man)
- 45 Reflections
- 0500 World News
- 09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
- 30 Chain Reaction (ex 27th The Wondrous Cross)
- 45 Letter from America
- 0600 News
- 30 Jazz for the Asking
- 0700 World News
- 09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
- 30 From Our Own Correspondent
- 45 Book Choice

FM Services

- 30 Waveguide
- 0000 World News
- 09 Reflections
- 15 The Pleasure's Yours
- 0900 World News
- 09 The Sunday Papers
- 15 Science in Action
- 45 Education Today (ex 6th A Hobbs—or a Way of Life)
- 1000 News Summary followed by Short Story
- 15 Classical Record Review
- 30 Religious Service
- 1100 World News
- 09 News about Britain
- 15 From Our Own Correspondent (ex 27th The Wondrous Cross)
- 30 Musical Masters of the Baroque (ex 13th Play of the Week: Remembrance)
- 1200 News Summary (ex 13th) followed by Play of the Week: 6th The Browning Version; 13th Remembrance contd.; 20th From the Lion Rock; 27th Happy Families
- 1300 World News
- 09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
- 30 Sports Roundup
- 45 The Sandi Jones Request Show including at 1400 News Summary

- 1400 Yes Minister
- 1500 Radio Newsworld
- 15 6th and 13th International Record; 20th and 27th Concert Hall
- 1600 World News
- 09 Commentary
- 15 Why Should This Happen to Me? (ex 6th The Desert Dairy)
- 45 Letter from America

NIGHT CHEMIST

Kuwait

Al Mutawa Pharmacy
Awqaf Bldg., Hilali St.
Al Ghazwa Pharmacy
Kazemi Bldg., Khalid Bin Al Walid St.

Hawalli and Negra
Al Kamal Pharmacy
Tunis St.

Salhiya and Rumithiya

Al Maidan Pharmacy
Baghdad St.
Fahad and Ahmadi
Al Bastoor Pharmacy
Qais Al Ghanem Bldg., Dabbous St.
Jaleel Al Shiyookh
Palestine Pharmacy
Munira Obaid Al Raja'e Bldg., Main St.
Jahra
Al Khalid Pharmacy
Opp. Cooperative Society

CINEMA TODAY

Al Andalus
Carry on England
Starring: Kenneth Connors, Judy Gerson
Al Salamiya
Hot Shots
Starring: Jim Younger
Al Hamra
Shabab Fi Al Jaheem (Arabic)
Starring: Mamdouh Abdul Aleem, Mirvat Ameen
Drive-In
Zaman Hatem Zahran (Arabic)
Starring: Noor Al Shariff, Bost, Salah Al Saadani
Al Firdous
Samraat (Hindi)
Starring: Dharmendra, Hema Malini
Fahad Open-Air
Armaan (Hindi)
Al Fahad
Oridathu (Malayalam)

Al Jahra
Satt pe Satta (Hindi)
Starring: Amitabh Bachchan, Hema Malini
Granada
Jallianwala Bagh (Hindi)
Starring: Vinod Khanna, Dipu Naval
Sulabikhat
Carry On Screaming
Al Jleeb
Villambaram (Malayalam)
Ahmadi Drive-In
Down and Out in Beverly Hills

PRAYERS

Fajr	4.24 am
Zuhr	11.53
Asr	3.23 pm
Maghreb	6.04
Isha	7.21



● Nevine Thiermann (third right) pictured with local beauticians after the recent launch of Capture, a new Christian Dior range. The beauty clinic was held at the Kuwait Hilton. Nevine is the international beauty consultant for Dior products.

Grand Finale takes place on Wednesday, April 13. The event features student and teacher teams from Kuwait's schools in a series of exciting games. Barbecue dinner and beverages will be served by the poolside. Valuable prizes. For details contact the hotel.

E.M.A.C. Tournament

A tennis tournament for under-16s will be held from April 13 to 16 at the SAS Hotel. Participating teams are from Abu Dhabi, Oman, Damascus, American School of Kuwait, Universal American School, Kuwait English School and New English School. The tournament has been organised by E.M.A.C. (Eastern Mediterranean Activities Conference).

Bowling Tournament

The Philippine Bowlers Association in Kuwait (PBAK) will hold their handicap bowling tournament from 9 am on April 8 at Club 300. The tournament is open to all men and women. Deadline for submitting entries is April 6. Fee: KD.4.500.

HOTELS

At the Sheraton

Turkish designer Madame Z will show her latest collection at

a fashion show at the hotel's Grand Ballroom, nightly, 8.30 pm, until March 29.

At the Hilton

The all-day dining restaurant, La Palma, offers Oriental, Continental and international cuisine, as well as a large array of sweets and desserts. Open for lunch and dinner. A full American buffet breakfast is available from 6.30 am to 11 am. Open daily from 6.30 am to midnight.

At the Meridian

Kiwi Festival features the fruit in cocktails, salads, main courses and pastries. The promotion is being held in La Brasserie, Al Waha and Al Fing. The festival ends on April 3.

Dine in the Versailles Restaurant and enjoy jazz music and ballads presented by Tony and Jenny's band. The band plays in the restaurant on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday nights.

At the SAS

The Peacock Room offers Chinese dining from Peking to Szechuan daily for lunch and dinner, except Saturday.

Al Boom is one of the exciting eating places in town. The restaurant on the traditional dhow offers Oriental and Western cuisine for dinner, nightly.

EDITORIALS

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

LOOK back and smile at perils past — Sir Walter Scott, Scottish writer (1771-1832).

West German politics

Social Democrats mount a challenge

By Anthony Williams

BONN, (Reuters): Social Democrat Oskar Lafontaine, once a firebrand of the left, has mounted a controversial challenge to trade unions in a bid for the centre ground of West German politics.

Aiming to steer his party back to power in the 1990s, the deputy leader of the Social Democratic Party (SPD) risked a breach with its traditional trade union allies, urging workers to forego pay rises in their fight for shorter hours last month.

Lafontaine, 44-year-old state premier of the industrially depressed Saarland, outraged labour leaders and unions branded him a traitor.

But employers and conservative politicians quickly embraced his proposal, which he sees as a viable way to cut rising unemployment.

Image

Lafontaine is trying to rid the SPD of its old-fashioned image of a party linked just to the working-class left.

"As a party of the people, the SPD cannot orientate itself only to the demands of the unions," he said recently.

Commentators say he is also flirting with the small, but pivotal, Liberal Free Democrat Party (FDP), with whom the SPD ruled in a coalition from 1969 to 1982.

The FDP switched allegiances during an economic downturn, propelling conservative Helmut Kohl into the Bonn chancellorship. But the new alliance is an uneasy marriage, often strained by conflicts on disarmament and domestic security issues.

West Germans traditionally trust conservatives to come up with sensible policies to deal with unemployment. However, one-tenth of the working population is now out of a job and even the government concedes the rising trend is a problem.

Last month, there were some 2.5 million unemployed in West Germany — 29,000 more than in February 1987. A Hamburg-based research institute, HWWA, predicts another 80,000 jobs will be lost this year.

PLO's UN mission

Closing may set precedent

By Peter James Spielmann

UNITED NATIONS, (AP): An attorney for US groups and individuals who want to hear the PLO's views said Thursday that a law to close the PLO's UN mission could set an unconstitutional precedent of suppressing political speech.

The 1987 US anti-terrorist law, if upheld by the courts, would force the Palestine Liberation Organisation to close the Manhattan Townhouse that serves as its UN mission and bar it from spending funds in the United States.

Michael Krinsky, a lawyer for 65 individuals and groups filing the lawsuit, told a news conference that his New York law firm sued the US government, challenging the constitutionality of the law.

The lawsuit was filed Wednesday, just an hour after the UN General Assembly voted 148-2 to condemn the United States for trying to oust the PLO. Only Israel joined the United States in voting against the resolution, which has no binding effect.

Debate "Political debate in this country would be impoverished dramatically if we were not able to hear the voices of the people who want to speak for the Palestinian people, or for the anti-apartheid forces in South Africa, or who want to further the interest of (Nicaragua's) Sandinista government, or the Contras, or of Israel," Krinsky said.

"If this law is sustained, then it will be possible at other times, and in different political climates, for Congress to silence all those other voices," he said.

Krinsky's lawsuit is separate from the legal action pitting the United States against the PLO mission and the United Nations.

On Tuesday, the Justice Department filed suit in a New York court to enforce the law.

Reagan administration's involvement is due to developments beyond its control

Foreign affairs dominating political scene

WHO would have expected foreign affairs to dominate the news here in a presidential election year? Hardly anybody, for as a rule the White House in an election year seeks to play down foreign affairs or stay altogether out of them. They entail risks that can backfire, create undesirable conflicts with the Congress and create problems that can give the opposition welcome targets to attack.

This year this general rule does not seem to apply. Partly because the Reagan administration's involvement is due to developments outside its control. Take the Arab-Israeli peace plan Secretary of State George Shultz has suddenly pulled out of his pocket.

It was not his initiative, originally at least, it was a reaction to the demonstrations in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and to the violent countermeasures against them taken by the Israeli government. George Shultz had given up his search for a peace initiative. He became disillusioned with the inability of the Arabs to unite in support of his original peace plan and then turned disheartened by the refusal of King Hussein to deal directly with the Israeli government.

Opportunities

But when the rioting in the West Bank and Gaza put the Israelis on the defensive, when the American Jewish community out of embarrassment with the Israelis handling of the demonstrators began putting pressure on Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir to seriously consider the revised Shultz peace plan, he concluded that this was one of those moments in history when both sides to the conflict might welcome his pointing at a way out of a highly explosive situation, especially since neither the Israelis seemed to be able to suppress the rioting nor the Arabs knew how to take political advantage of their successful demonstrations.

Even before these new opportunities began to beckon in the Middle East, the arrival of Mikhail Gorbachev at the helm of the Soviet Politburo opened up totally unexpected new opportunities in East-West relations. His initiatives in arms control, his revolutionary reforms of the domestic economy, his new approach to Jewish emigration

from the Soviet Union, his eagerness to meet with President Reagan, all forced the Reagan administration to react, and it is to Reagan's credit, that he decided to react positively.

Consequently a new mood has been developing in Soviet-American relations. The relative ease with which Soviet experts can come to the United States and seek advice from American experts and vice-versa is, at least in my memory, unprecedented. There is no doubt that Reagan's visit to Moscow will take place, irrespective of whether an agreement is reached on a 50 per cent reduction of long-range missiles.

American experts directly involved in these negotiations tell me that while at present the Soviets are stalling and are insisting on unacceptable conditions, their American counterparts believe that the stalling tactics may well be due to their lacking new and more detailed instructions.

It could very well happen that once the negotiations are taken up between Shultz and Shevardnadze a breakthrough could occur and change the outlook overnight. The last time the two met, they did not make the kind of progress that followed their meeting on the eve of the Washington summit meeting.

Agreement

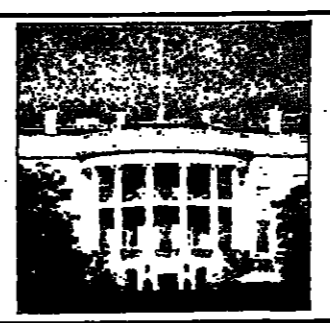
For the time being at least, both sides claim that there may not be enough time left to clinch a "Sini" agreement before the Moscow summit. Once upon a time the Soviets and the Americans agreed that a summit meeting did not make much sense unless it can lead to an important accord, this is not any more the case.

It is partly a recognition of the complexities involved in a Start agreement, and partly a feeling that summit meetings should lose their status before the world as a sensational event and "evolve into a process that will be seen as normal", as Shultz put it last Sunday.

There are several other issues, beyond agreements on arms control, that need to be discussed between the two superpowers. American officials point to the continuing Soviet arms deliveries to the Nicaraguan Sandinista regime, to the embattled leader of Panama, General Manuel Antonio Noriega, to the govern-

Inside Washington

By Henry Brandon



WELL, AT LEAST THEY AGREE ON SOMETHING!

ment of Angola, to mention only a few that irritate the Reagan administration most.

There have been public demonstrations in Washington, Chicago and San Francisco against the sending of American paratroopers to Honduras, but they have petered out. The relatively mild and confused reaction in Congress, too, is an indication that there is enough evidence that the attempted incursion into Honduras by the Sandinistas was not a sort of trumped up charge to give the United States an excuse to send troops into Honduras, but that this incursion did indeed happen.

Furthermore, it disturbed members of Congress that the Sandinistas major and well prepared offensive against the Contras happened on the eve of

an agreed date for a resumption of the peace negotiations. It was Shultz, not the Pentagon, who proposed sending those 3,000 American paratroopers into Honduras.

Prominent

Reagan relies almost totally on Shultz's recommendations. He has become the most prominent and influential personality in the Reagan administration and gives every impression of enjoying his new-found command position. It is unusual for an outgoing administration to be so active in foreign affairs, but Shultz is anxious to conclude his service with a record of achievement. He is, therefore, pushing hard for progress in arms control negotiations and in advancing the cause of his Middle East peace plan. He is han-

dling himself with a self-assurance, authority and a sense of being in command he has not displayed before.

He is well aware that his Middle East initiative has only a faint chance of succeeding and his failure to persuade Shamir to be more forthcoming has not upset or discouraged him. He feels the US had to give a lead, because there is no other government that has the authority to do so and, furthermore, that it is important to keep his proposals before the Israeli public.

The prospect that the next national elections in Israel, possibly in June, will change the political balance between the Likud and Labour parties is remote, but these elections make it even more important for a peace plan to exist, especially a plan which has the support of much of the American Jewish community.

Divided

Two weeks ago Dr Ehud Sprinzak, a senior lecturer in political science at Hebrew University visited Washington. He is a highly respected expert in his field of political science and he spoke to a number of leading Middle-Eastern experts here, including State Department officials.

He believes that while Israel remains evenly divided on the peace issue and the events in the West Bank and Gaza have failed to cause any traumatic changes in the Israeli psyche, a major qualitative change in the thinking of the Arab and Israeli elites (that is politicians and intellectuals who influence public opinion) is in train. And it is public opinion not the politicians who will decide the future state of Israel.

He is also convinced that the riots in the West Bank and Israel's reaction to them has "profoundly affected the soul of Israel" and that a compromise agreement "peace for territory" is only a matter of time and a matter of price, which, he says, Israelis may come to realise is going up every day.

In contrast to many American experts in this field, he is convinced that the ultimate solution will not be brought about by the left, the Labour Party but by the right because, Israel is "immensely conservative", as he puts it. And if there is a leader, who could resolve this growing internal

crisis it is the current Minister of Commerce and Industries, Sharon, whose radicalism appears to be mellowing. He calls him a dangerous person but the only leading politician who has the shrewdness and the ambition to lead, and who is likely to have the guts to tell the Israelis that the present policy of stubborn refusal to compromise will at some point become too costly for Israel.

War

He does not exclude the possibility that a civil war will break out (as happened in Algeria in 1959) between the hard-core right-wingers led by the Rev. Kahane who believes that giving back the West Bank would be a crime against God and those who have come to favour the territorial compromise.

For the time being at least the hard-right is pleased with the "revolution of the stones", because it has swelled its ranks, seriously hurt the pride of the Israeli Army, stiffened its determination to put down the rioters and shown that American Jewry is not a reliable supporter of Israel — that it must therefore be able to rely on itself.

Kahane, Dr Sprinzak sees as a fanatic, Sharon as a man who has the flexibility and the courage to lead Israel out of its worst crisis.

It is this sense of crucial crisis in the air that keeps Shultz pushing his peace plan, even if both Arabs and Jews shy away from it. It certainly is not dead, the proposal for an international conference, which is part of the plan, will come up in this week's discussions between Shultz and Shevardnadze. Shultz wants the conference as a vehicle to get the negotiations started, but not to impose or veto any solutions, the Russians want to use it to exert leverage on the whole situation. They want to be an active participant in the negotiations. It is this Soviet attitude which scares Shamir.

An interesting by-product of Shultz's activities is their likely impact on the American presidential elections. They will make it difficult for whoever will be the Democratic candidate to criticise the Reagan administration for inaction in foreign affairs. Unless any of Shultz's initiatives goes seriously wrong, they are bound to help George Bush in his quest for the presidency.

Islamic militants against settlement with Israel

By Nicolas B. Tatro

BEIT AL MA'AA Occupied West Bank, (AP): Islamic militants who reject any negotiated settlement with Israel have played a key role in the rebellion against military rule in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Mosques have often become fortresses used to fight Israeli soldiers, and Muslim preachers use prayer services on Fridays to rally support for continuing the "intifadeh," Arabic for uprising.

Underground leaflets and graffiti on the walls are signed by the Islamic Jihad, or Holy War, by the Islamic resistance and by Hamas, "Arabic for zeal" and the name used by the Muslim Brotherhood. "Allahu Akbar" (God is Great) has become a common battle cry.

The uncompromising rhetoric of such groups is cited by Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir as evidence that the unrest is not a political protest, but a war aimed at the destruction of Israel.

"We demand that the Jews be put under our rule," said Sheikh Jamil Salim, a 29-year-old imam, or Muslim prayer leader, in this hillside refugee camp near the West Bank town of Nablus.

Intentions

"We are taught by the Holy Quran that Jews have no good intentions to establish peace. They are breakers of agreements and covenants," he said.

The relative strengths of fundamentalist Islamic groups, as opposed to non-fundamentalists who identify with the Palestine Liberation Organisation, is difficult to assess.

Clinton Bailey, an Islamic expert at Tel Aviv University who is carrying out a study, said fundamentalists claimed the allegiance of at least 30 per cent of the 850,000 residents of the West Bank, while in Gaza it was nearly 80 per cent of 650,000.

There is a certain gray area because not all people are one or the other. Many who identify with the PLO also became religious," said Bailey.

His distrust of the Israelis is reflected to a greater or lesser degree by other hardline prayer leaders in Friday sermons.

Salim, who offers a reporter a meat-and-milk dish called shush barak, lives with 18 members of his extended family in a four-room stone house on a street so narrow a donkey cart cannot pass.

"For 20 years, there was no such uprising. The fact there is such an uprising now is because of religious groups," he said.

Sitting cross-legged on floor cushions in his diwan, or meeting room, Salim said one reason for the growth of Islam has been the failure of other ideologies. "Socialism, nationalism and materialism, all the — isms, failed," he said.

Salim makes it clear he identifies with the Muslim Brotherhood, founded in Egypt by school teacher Hassan Al Banna in 1929. He does not oppose the diplomatic efforts of PLO chairman Yasser Arafat but stresses a West Bank state will not be enough.

Poverty

"We are not against getting part of our rights. But we will seek all of our rights. We refuse negotiations and reject an international conference," he said.

Outside his home, the walls bear dozens of slogans. One signed by the Islamic Resistance, which is believed to be connected to the Muslim Brothers, declares: "Islam is the solution and the alternative."

In the Gaza Strip, where poverty is pervasive and a majority of the 650,000 residents are refugees, outward signs of Islamic influence, such as traditional long dresses and veils for women, are more prevalent than in the relatively prosperous West Bank.

The uprising began Dec. 9, in the Jebeliyah refugee camp near Gaza City. Ahmed Hashem Ali Saffawi, 53, who owns a pharmacy in Jebeliyah, said the stage for rebellion was set by a group founded in 1986 by his 34-year-old son Imad and a dozen fellow students at the Islamic University in Gaza City.

Killed

The group took the name of Islamic Holy War after the shadowy pro-Iranian faction in Lebanon that carried out devastating car-bomb attacks on US Marines and Israeli soldiers, Saffawi said.

Growing to more than 50 active members, the group in Gaza drew inspiration from preachers, but Saffawi insisted there was no outside direction or funding.

Saffawi, who joined the Muslim Brotherhood as a

student in Cairo in the 1950s and later was jailed in Israel for PLO activism, spoke with pride about the group.

The youths, jailed after carrying out knifings that wounded four Israeli civilians, became local heroes when six broke out of the Central Gaza Prison on May 18, 1987.

For five months they stayed underground, until October, when four were killed in a shootout with Israeli forces. Imad and another man escaped abroad, a feat previously considered impossible.

"By their actions and their success, they gave confidence to the Palestinian people to depend on themselves and be self-sufficient," said Saffawi.

This can-do attitude was a contrast with "the spirit and mood" of the older generation which had relied on outside help for deliverance, Saffawi said.

"We were deceived into believing help would come from outside, and waited for the Arabs or Islamic states or the United Nations to do something," said Saffawi.

Two days after the interview in his home in Gaza City, Saffawi was placed under administrative detention by Israeli military authorities, who can keep him for six months without trial.

Time for US to look after its own interests

By John Dillin

WASHINGTON — "Put America first."

Across the United States, from the textile mills of South Carolina to the auto plants in Illinois, there's a pervasive sentiment that it is time for America to look after its own. It could become a major element of the emerging political debate in the 1988 election.

Political experts say there is growing anxiety at the grass roots about America's economic future, despite low inflation, low unemployment, and steady growth over the past five years.

They say previous concerns about America's military strength have been replaced by new worries about the nation's economic vulnerability. This concern is reaching into middle-class families who once felt secure.

After decades of foreign aid, brush-fire wars, and costly military alliances, American voters are turning inward. They believe many of their sacrifices to help other nations have been met with ingratitude and disdain.

And now they see their economic futures threatened by foreign competition. It is time, they believe, to get back to basics, and strengthen the nation's economic foundations.

Presidential candidates have sensed these broad concerns, and have tried to address them. Richard Gephardt talks about getting tough with America's trading partners. George Bush says the answer is better education. Robert Dole wants the NATO allies to pick up more of the costs of defending Europe. Jesse Jackson blames multinational corporations for moving jobs to low-wage countries.

But experts say none of the candidates has yet pulled the issues together into a coherent package.

Anxiety

Larry Hansen, an analyst with the Roosevelt Centre for American Policy Studies, says there is a "high level of inchoate anxiety about this bungee (of deficits) we have. There's great anxiety among the middle class."

"But no candidate has grabbed that family of issues by the neck and dealt with it seriously," Kevin Phillips, editor of The American Political Report, calls the emerging issue "economic nationalism."

Phillips suggests that President Reagan and the Republicans, who have a Rambo image on military matters, could feel a backlash if they turn out to be wimps on the issue of "economic nationalism."

Phillips says we could see among voters "a new frustration" with conservatives if they are not willing to "defend US industries and markets" and "demand foreign market access (and) defence burden-sharing from our trading partners."

Republicans could be hurt on this issue in 1988 just as liberals were hurt by perceptions that they were weak on defence during the past two decades, Phillips suggests.

This potentially potent issue has been studied over a period of months by the Roosevelt Centre, which has brought together groups of voters in primary and caucus states. The latest focus-group sessions, held in Illinois, found a split among voters about what should be done.

Republicans in the focus groups were inclined to look for solutions within the United States, and to suggest that this country is to blame for most of its problems in competing with nations like Japan. Republicans think the solutions lie in better education, lower taxes, government efficiency, improved busi-

ness management, and other domestic actions.

Swing Democrats (those who voted for Ronald Reagan) generally agree with Republicans on this issue. They say America's trade problems, for example, are primarily the US's own fault.

Restrict

Regular Democrats, however, want quick, tough action aimed at US trading partners. They support legislation that would restrict imports and impose "fairness" on the trading system. They favour better education, but worry that even if America were operating at peak efficiency, unfair trade practices by other nations could depress American wages, the Roosevelt study found.

Political pollsters, such as Richard Wirthlin, who works for Robert Dole's campaign, find these issues escalating among GOP voters.

The budget deficit was considered a serious problem by only 2 or 3 per cent of Republican voters two years ago. Now it is up to 11 to 14 per cent in Dr Wirthlin's polls as voters begin to tie the deficit together with other economic concerns.

Hansen of the Roosevelt Centre says that in 1984, when Walter Mondale tried to make the deficits an issue, he failed because voters couldn't see the connection between deficits and their economic futures.

That has changed. Today many voters see everything linked: budget and trade deficits, declining test scores, poor management, slabby government, defence waste, and corporate greed. Together, they threaten America's future.

This new inward focus by voters coincides with a feeling that it is time to pull back overseas. As one Republican, identified only as "Bob," told a Roosevelt focus group in Illinois: "The country has to think of itself first... More attention should be given (to) solving American problems rather than trying to solve somebody else's problems when we have no control over them or any vested interest in them."

He concluded: "We don't need all 400,000 troops over in Europe... When people in Europe don't think enough to invest in their own protection and count on us for their protection, it's just a waste of effort." The Christian Science Monitor News Service.

TODAY IN HISTORY

- 1703 — Russian Czar Peter the Great founds city of St Petersburg.
- 1713 — Spain agrees at Utrecht to cede Gibraltar and Minorca to Britain.
- 1802 — Peace of Amiens between Britain and France, which achieves complete pacification of Europe.
- 1854 — France declares war on Russia.
- 1865 — Independent British colony of Kaffaria is incorporated with Cape Colony in South Africa.
- 1878 — Britain, fearing further Russian aggression, calls out reserve and sends Indian troops to Malta.
- 1933 — Japan announces it will leave League of Nations.
- 1941 — Yugoslavia's Prince Paul is deposed in coup following pact with Germany's Adolf Hitler.
- 1955 — State of emergency is declared in Pakistan.
- 1960 — Iraqi Premier General Kassem founds Palestine Army.
- 1964 — United Nations peace force under Indian General Gyani takes over in Cyprus; earthquake in Alaska kills more than 100 people.
- 1968 — Yuri Gagarin, Soviet cosmonaut who flew world's first manned space mission, is killed in crash of training plane.
- 1970 — Severe earthquake strikes western Turkey, killing at least 1,087 and leaving 90,000 homeless.
- 1976 — South Africa withdraws its military forces from Angola.
- 1987 — Tensions flare between Greece and Turkey over oil rights in Aegean Sea.

اسلام



LABOUR unionists with umbrellas rally for the spring labour offensive, demanding their wage hike, at a rainy park in Tokyo. Over 10,000 workers participated in the rally. (Reuter wirephoto)



JULIA BLACK, an animal keeper at Howlett's Zoo in Canterbury, England, hugs Matibi, a one-and-a-half-year-old gorilla, the 35th in the zoo's present population. Doctors had thought that Matibi was dead after she was delivered when her mother failed to recognise her. Black, who has to sleep with the gorilla and feed her every two hours, wears a false hairy chest for her charge to clutch. (Reuter wirephoto)



A GOVERNMENT jeep burns in a central Rangoon street during recent student riots. Diplomats said more than two dozen people were killed and 2,000 arrested in several days of rioting. (Reuter wirephoto)



US Navy engineman Robert Bunn of Augusta, Georgia, whistles to a wild green parrot trying to make friends after he captured it on the frigate USS Samuel B. Roberts' flight deck while in port. (Reuter wirephoto)



INTENDED runners in next Thursday's Royal Artillery Cup take a training run under the barrels of mobile artillery guns on Salisbury Plain. (Reuter wirephoto)



A SANDINISTA Army doctor checks the pulse of a wounded soldier during the evacuation by helicopter. The two soldiers stepped on a landmine near Amaka, 270 km north of Managua along the border with Honduras, only a few hours after the Nicaraguan government and the UN-backed Contras signed a cease-fire agreement. (Reuter wirephoto)



ANTI-NORIEGA protesters wave white handkerchiefs — a symbol of opposition to the military rule of Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega — during a rally in front of the Metropolitan Cathedral in Panama, where a mass was held. (Reuter wirephoto)



TOP Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping returns applause of other delegates at the opening session of China's parliament, the National People's Congress. (Reuter wirephoto)



DEBI THOMAS of USA in action during the ladies short programme of the 1988 World Figure Skating Championships in Budapest on Friday. Thomas took the second place before the long programme yesterday (picture below). Canada's Brian Orser (picture top) jumps high while competing in the men's long programme at the championships. Orser was placed second, behind the USA's Brian Boitano. (Reuter wirephoto)



A TIBETAN monk on the 10th day of a 'fast until death' having his blood pressure checked yesterday in New Delhi. Thirteen Tibetans are on a hunger strike against the Chinese occupation of Tibet. (Reuter wirephoto)



MEMBERS of the US 7th Infantry Division, practice assault tactics in southern Honduras, where they have been training in 100 degrees F temperatures since their arrival from California on Thursday. (Reuter wirephoto)



LIFESTYLE

Bridging East and West

Pakistan's other Zia

International bridge player Zia Mahmud believes there's a magic in bridge which unites people and befriends them, casting aside differences of colour, religion and race. To prove that point, he won the famous Reisinger Cup in America with a multi-racial team.

By Muneza Shamsie

HE PLAYS for Pakistan and bridge journalists have nominated him the best bridge player in the world today.

He has been asked by the Australian government to play exhibition matches for their bicentennial celebrations. He has also made several series for television and was among the handful of players invited for a cruise on board "The Canberra" to play a televised tournament.

He performed the rare feat of winning it two years running and it was recently shown on the BBC.

Bridge commentators find it difficult to pre-empt his thought processes as he has a reputation for being imaginative, innovative and unpredictable.

He is based in London, has an apartment in New York and invited to every country conceivable. His itinerary this year includes The Hague, London, Iceland, Tunisia, Paris, Morocco, Luxembourg, New York, Muscat.

Image

"The world of bridge," Zia Mahmud says "is a cocoon, with its own language, its own heroes. But it is much more international than cricket which is limited to a few countries — and I want to give it greater public vision by promoting friendship and peace programmes."

Flamboyant, quick witted and charming, he is planning a tournament in Reykjavik at the house where Gorbachev and Reagan had their summit. He hopes to arrange for a Russian family and an American family, to spend a few days living with each other and getting to know each other, through bridge. He then wants to repeat this in other parts of the world and to make up teams consist-

ing of people of different races.

"There is a magic in bridge," he says "which unites people and befriends them. It casts aside differences of colour, religion and race."

To prove the point, he won the famous Reisinger Cup in America with a team consisting of an Indian Hindu, a white American Jew and a Black Christian. He became the subject of much publicity when an interviewer asked him "Is bridge like mathematics?" Zia promptly made a challenge on television that if any computer

—the ultimate in calculation—could beat him, he would pay up a million pounds. No one to date has taken up his offer.

"I wanted people to know," he said "how important human qualities are in bridge."

"For me," he added "bridge is about that one beautiful moment in a hundred hands where I can find a play, a bid, an imaginative defence that has not been thought of before."

Personal relationships are obviously important to him. His conversation is filled with lively anecdotes of the many people he met through bridge, whether its the blind player he played with in Calcutta, or the richest and most powerful men in the world.

"In five minutes of bridge," he says "I can tell more about people than after weeks of living with them. You find people who appear strong, but are bullies or cowards when they play bridge; conversely you find people with kindness and empathy and generosity and it flows all over the place."

The younger son of Mir Maqbool Mahmud and Dr Shakunt Haroon, Zia Mahmud describes himself as both fatalistic and "totally lackadaisical" except when it comes to bridge; and with no great likes or dislikes either, except at the bridge table. "There my emotions go berserk," he said

"but I don't show them of course."

"Were cards a part of your childhood?" I ask him.

"No they were not." He grew up in England, was educated at Rugby, became a qualified chartered accountant, and returned to Pakistan at the age of 21.

He more or less "fell into bridge." The story goes that he was interested in a lady he could only meet at the bridge table; he ended up by forgetting her and becoming obsessed by bridge.

Passionate

"I have been passionate about very few things," he said. "When I got involved in bridge for the first time, it was a raging fever, it was all consuming. It is the only thing where I can still occupy my mind and not feel time passing. And it gives me moments of such beauty that is terrific."

He took every opportunity to improve his game, but in Pakistan the competition was limited and the bridge techniques were those handed down over decades. He moved to London and played in bridge clubs from morning till night.

His family were not exactly enthralled. "Why do you play bridge?" people said. "Why not tiddly winks?" Others urged him to do something more useful. "But like everything else in life," he commented "when you bring home great success then suddenly it becomes a different ball game. Heaven forbid that you should fail."

"Bridge," he added "is a profession only because it takes up all my time. But I don't think it would be fair to say it's my principal source of livelihood, because I have alternative sources."

Roshan Bokhari, who plays with the Pakistan women's team, tells me that few people in Pakistan, quite realise exactly what a high standing and per-



Zia Mahmud: promoting friendship through bridge

sonal reputation Zia has in the bridge world. Bridge fans virtually vie to catch a glimpse of him. "Pakistan?" They say with wonder "You're from Zia Mahmud's country?"

He holds regular training sessions in Karachi before a tournament and is never too busy to help out or give advice. Consequently, he has introduced modern bridge techniques to Pakistan and radically changed methods of bidding and playing.

"Bridge is not a game of luck or chance," he said. "It is a game of skill; it's very scientific and well thought out. But you have to keep up with modern changes, as in any other game, you have to be exposed to tough international competition, to new ideas, new literature."

Tall and casual, he was staying at his family house, guarded by a pair of Alsatians when I went to see him.

"In the West," he said "the national image of Pakistan, has been one of a people who are good at physical sports. But to excel in a sport which requires mental proficiency and to beat the world at that, wins the country much higher prestige than you can possibly imagine."

where the national team practices is a locker room, in the national stadium."

Furthermore, every member of the bridge team, except Zia, has a regular job and cannot play bridge full time, the way Americans and other teams do. Despite this, Pakistan has done remarkably well in bridge, better than any other country in the last ten years and its team also built up a reputation, not only as bridge players but great sportsmen.

"In the last world championship we played in Miami, and came second," Zia said "they showed the tournament from an indoor film through a close circuit television, watched by thousands of people. Everyone, including the Americans started hooting and shouting for Pakistan, as we came into the finals. Americans were wearing T-shirts saying 'Paki power'."

I spoke to him for a while about the recent complaints and criticism that Pakistan could not make it to the finals of the Bermuda Bowl for the last three years running.

"In 1981," he said "we came second and this year we came 5th. I thought we did very well. In Pakistan we were written off as failures. They feel we should win the world championship which America wins, but the fact is we are thousands of miles away from that goal."

"Besides, it's a question of how well or badly you have done in the light of what? If you want the Pakistanis to do better, give them the facilities, a proper bridge club, send them out for five months, to the international tournament trails, let them have the practice and backing they need."

The national airline doesn't even give them a discount. They spend their own money winning laurels for their country and when they did come second what happened? No one praised them or called them up. There was just a small item in one or two of the newspapers. How often has Pakistan won a silver medal? Only squash, hockey and perhaps cricket, but no one treats bridge in the same way."

Next year, when he plays a major tournament in Muscat Oman, he hopes to follow it, with a major bridge event in Pakistan, where international bridge stars, including Omar Sharif can play an exhibition match.



Indian princess Parbati Baruah prefers elephants to her family.

Royal trainer

By A. Mookerji

JHITKA, India: Deep in the forests of the Himalayan foothills, an Indian princess has dedicated her life to the welfare of wild elephants.

Far from her banker husband and luxurious home at Gauripur in the neighbouring state of Assam, Parbati Baruah lives a nomadic life helping the West Bengal forestry department manage the giant beasts.

"I love the forest and the elephants. This is my kind of life and I want to live it this way," says the diminutive aristocrat, a member of a former princely family, standing beside a huge cow elephant.

Baruah, 32, comes from a family which has trapped and trained elephants for 400 years, possibly longer. "The legend goes that my forefathers supplied elephants to the Moghuls invading India," she says.

Her father, Prakritesh Baruah, is a renowned elephant expert.

"At 10 years old I was accompanying my father on trapping expeditions. To those

being initiated it is a frightening experience but I enjoyed myself and by the time I was 15 I was participating," she said.

The captured wild elephants were brought back to the family estate in Gauripur where her father taught her how to tame and train them.

Baruah's day begins before dawn as she sets out accompanied by two tame elephants to track down members of the rogue herd.

When she finds them, she drives them further into the forest.

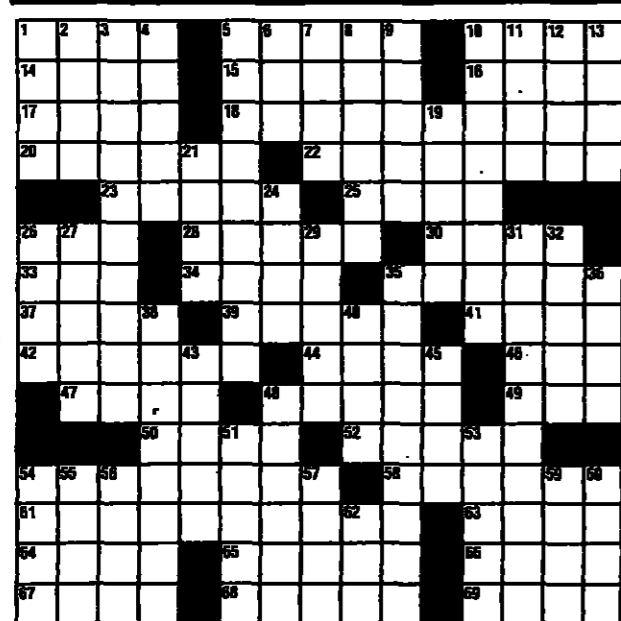
Wild elephants will face more problems in future, as human activity encroaches further on their natural habitat.

"My task will get more and more difficult over the years. It will need more dedication and I will have to spend more time with the animals," she said.

"The last time I met my husband was after an absence of 18 months, and that was for about two hours," she added.

"I don't know how to put this to you — but bluntly my husband and my family are less important. I live for my elephants."

TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- 1 Weeps
 - 5 "The Planets" composer
 - 10 Brownish purple
 - 14 Suit
 - 15 Like stadiums at touchdown time
 - 16 One of a Kipling trio
 - 17 "This one's —"
 - 18 Enigmatical
 - 20 River of song
 - 22 Recap
 - 23 Spanish stew
 - 25 Unheeding
 - 26 SHAZ! sector
 - 28 Gram and dram
 - 30 Bribe
 - 33 Actress Russell, to friends
 - 34 Taro corn
 - 35 NBA's Bol
 - 37 Nazimova
 - 39 Picture or Roman follower
 - 41 Pound or Stone
 - 42 Oozed
 - 44 UN member
 - 46 Last letter, in London
 - 47 To think, of yore
 - 48 Reagan Attorney General
 - 49 Some records, for short
 - 50 That, in Tours
 - 52 A bit thick
 - 54 Winding on a bobbin
 - 58 As usual
 - 61 Enigmatical
 - 63 Shoe size
 - 64 "Rule Britannia" composer
 - 65 Jelly, to Jacques
 - 66 Squared off
- DOWN**
- 1 Put away
 - 2 Lady Chaplin
 - 3 Stumper
 - 4 Big bargain
 - 5 Graceless
 - 6 Fact finish
 - 7 Fortitude
 - 8 Woodland deities
 - 9 Lace, in Italy
 - 10 Hotel lobby transmitter
 - 11 "Trinity" author
 - 12 "Who — Turn To?"
 - 13 Ornelet starts
 - 19 Small hollow
 - 21 Pivot
 - 24 Namesakes of a Caesar
 - 26 Lively times
 - 27 Really sign
 - 29 Chapeau
 - 31 Bewildered
 - 32 state
 - 35 — throat
 - 36 Go-between
 - 38 19th cen. American engineer James Buchanan
 - 38 Verbal truncations
 - 40 Exploited
 - 43 "The Seven Year Itch" star
 - 45 City on the Truckee
 - 48 Tailless cats
 - 51 Belgium city on the Meuse
 - 53 Max, misses
 - 54 Fokker foe
 - 55 Land of the Incas
 - 56 Whether —
 - 57 Blue-chip edging
 - 59 Pay to play
 - 60 Retreat
 - 62 Wedding write-up word

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

ASKS DUDS APHID
LIEU IMET LIANE
ALEG SWEET TALKS
SONATA PARA TSK
RARE LAIC
BUNCOMBE CROSSE
UNIO SORRY NUTS
RICA NRA FLOS
STET HYENA ELIA
TERESA DELICACY
DIVE EAST
AMS PEAT MAITRE
SACCHARINE ORAL
IDAHO TROD NEVA
SERIN HERIA SEEN

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF

KEEP CONTROL OF THE SITUATION

Neither vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH

♠ 10 7 4 2

♥ J 5 4

♦ J 8

♣ A 9 6 2

WEST

♠ K Q 5

♥ A K 10 6 3

♦ 9 7 4

♣ 8 5

EAST

♠ J 8

♥ Q 9 7 2

♦ Q 3

♣ J 10 7 4 3

SOUTH

♠ A 9 6 3

♥ 8

♦ A K Q 10 6 5

♣ K Q

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♦ 1 ♥ Pass 2 ♠
2 ♣ Pass 3 ♣ Pass
4 ♣ Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: King of ♥

One of the most popular duplicate games in Ft. Worth, Texas, is run by Bruce Shields. While the quality of the game is excellent, it pales in comparison to the home-cooked buffet dinner served to all participants.

In a recent game, Shields held the South hand in a pair game. He and his partner reached the excellent contract of four spades, and all that remained was to make it after the

defenders attacked with two rounds of hearts.

Trumps had to be 3-2; if they broke 4-1, the contract was doomed—declarer could not avoid losing three spade tricks in addition to the heart the defenders already had in the bank. And at least two rounds of trumps would have to be drawn, to prevent the defender with the short trumps from ruffing a diamond.

If declarer were to play ace of trumps and another, he would expose himself to defeat. One of the defenders might be able to draw a third trump, in which case he could cash a heart for down one.

The secret of drawing trumps while retaining control is quite simple, as Shields quickly demonstrated. At trick three, he led a low trump from hand. If the defender who won that trick persisted with hearts, declarer could ruff, cash the ace of trumps and then run diamonds until the defender with the remaining trump ruffed for the defense's third and last trick. If the opponent switched to some other suit, declarer would win, cash the ace of trumps and, still leaving the master trump outstanding, again start the diamonds to assure the contract.



"Well I guess we can kiss a promising radio career goodbye."

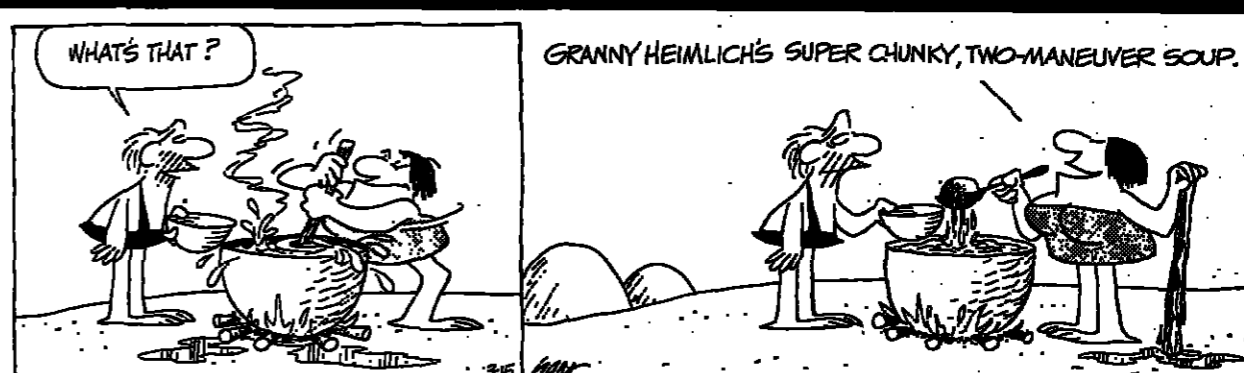
THE WIZARD OF ID

By Brent Parker and Johnny Hart



B.C.

By Johnny Hart



YOUR STARS



Aries (March 20 - April 18)

The Moon's better influence will help to make you feel more like your old self. You should avoid any display of impulsiveness. Take a little more care. Be attentive.



Taurus (April 19 - May 19)

You should avoid careless over-taking. Read the instructions carefully before you begin using a new device. You should be on the lookout for mistakes. Be cordial.



Gemini (May 20 - June 20)

This is a good day on which to make a few changes. You should be more open to suggestions. Keep your wits very much about you. Be resilient.



Cancer (June 21 - July 21)

The influence of Mercury will help you to take the right approach. You will be able to overcome a certain amount of internal tension. Avoid being self-righteous. Be less critical.



Leo (July 22 - Aug. 21)

You should have a little more faith in yourself. You will be able to spend a most pleasant day in good company. Avoid eating more than you know you should. Be sincere.



Virgo (Aug. 22 - Sept. 21)

Try to take your mind off work for the day. You will not feel quite so sure of yourself. You will however still know how to deal with a pressing problem. Be a little more optimistic.



Libra (Sept. 22 - Oct. 22)

You will be on better terms with a friend of yours. You should try to free yourself from some pre-conceptions. You will be able to do something to further your cultural interest. Be more selective.



Scorpio (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21)

You should make sure you have your facts right. Do not expect too much or you will be disappointed. Try to provide for a rainy day. Be a little less pessimistic.



Sagittarius (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)

You will be in a happier frame of mind. Try to take things a little more easily. Listen closely to what others are saying. Be less impulsive.



Capricorn (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19)

You should avoid getting into any kind of argument. Make sure you get enough rest but do not become lethargic. You should not restrict your affections. Be a little more versatile.



Aquarius (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)

If you are too greedy you will spoil what you have too. You should try to be a little more patient. Do not think that only you are ever right. Be amenable to change.



Pisces (Feb. 19 - March 19)

You will be in good form. Make sure you get good value for money. Choose your company a little more carefully, but avoid being snobbish. Be resilient.

Swiss bank raps ruling on Marcos case

ZURICH: A Swiss bank said it would appeal against a decision obliging it to hand over bank records of former Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos, forcing the issue back to the federal court.

"For us, it is not so much a question of Marcos in particular, rather we are trying to get clarification of fundamental aspects which is concerned," a spokesman for Credit Suisse told Reuters.

Legal authorities in Zurich last month rejected an appeal by the bank which did not want to release the information.

The Swiss government, in a process known as granting legal assistance, has agreed to lift banking secrecy and help the Philippine government get its hands on an estimated \$1 billion stashed in accounts here by Marcos.

Last July, the federal court unanimously rejected attempts by Marcos, his wife Imelda and their entourage to block legal assistance.

Drive against customs millionaires

SOME 50 customs personnel have become multi-millionaires through corruption and smuggling at the Bureau of Customs.

The list of the names of the "super-rich" Customs personnel were already given by lawyer Jaime Cebujano to Congressman Jose Ramirez, House subcommittee chairman on finance and intelligence, on order of Customs Commissioner Salvador Mison.

The names, however, are withheld pending their investigation. Sources said most of the said personnel were retained during the Customs reorganization last year and some of them were even promoted and given juicy positions.

As this developed, Commissioner Mison warned anew bureau officials and employees from further committing irregularities even as he blamed notorious businessmen for building Customs men to facilitate illegal transactions.

\$1,000 minimum for entertainers in Japan

NOTING the influx of "pseudo-entertainers" in their cities, the Japanese government recently offered a higher minimum pay of \$1,000 to Filipino entertainers going there.

The Japanese panel which met recently with officials of the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration said the move "will weed out pseudo-entertainers."

They said the Japanese immigration office has set the \$1,000-minimum pay and that any contract stipulating a lower pay will not be issued visa.

Three cops in kidnap charges

CEBU CITY (PNA) - Three Cebu City policemen, including an officer, and two civilians were charged with kidnapping with ransom before the Mandaue City fiscal's office in connection with the alleged abduction of a wealthy Butuan City logger in Cebu City last March 3.

The five were charged with the kidnapping of Teofilo Concon, a visiting Mindanao logger whom they allegedly released only after paying P150,000 in ransom.

Fake P50 bills seized

A COUNTERFEIT gang believed run by a group of still unidentified dwellers in Manila's Muslim Centre was uncovered by the Economic Intelligence and Investigation Bureau (EIIB) in buy-bust operation on Echague St., Quiapo, Manila.

EIIB Commissioner Jose T. Almonte said some P25,000 in fake P50 bills was seized by an eight-man special operations group (SOG) team headed by agent Lucillo Porfirio.

The bogus money, according to Porfirio, was passed by a suspected courier to another EIIB-SOG undercover who fled upon seeing the approaching lawmen.

Solar eclipse: the best ever

GENERAL SANTOS CITY: Scientists and spectators from here and around the world last week gazed up in awe while animals went berserk as a three-minute solar eclipse blazed out this southern city and nearby areas.

Life also ground to a halt in other parts of the Philippines as people turned out for the eclipse, covering their eyes with photo negatives, X-ray films, welding goggles and soot-covered glass.

Thousands of people, including foreign astronomers, tourists and journalists gathered here and in nearby Davao City to watch a natural phenomenon that will not be seen in this country for another 54 years.

Roosters crowed, dogs howled, birds chirped night tunes and other animals displayed unusual behaviour during the eclipse.

At the peak of the eclipse, the sun was a dark sphere with a blazing corona on its edges, temperature dropped by two degrees, and car headlights and street lamps stood out in the darkness.

"It was fantastic," said a German astronomer, Charles Josef Scharrenbrock, who momentarily forgot the loss of his passport as he swam in a nearby lake.

But President Aquino, who timed one of her periodic inspection trips so she could view the eclipse here, missed much of the spectacle because clouds obscured the view from where she was watching, a member of her party said.

People in Metro Manila had a good view of a crescent sun as it was partially covered by the moon which swept past amid clear skies.

"It's here. It's here. It's getting dark," exclaimed Kim Nagsuban, a 26-year-old telephone operator who momentarily abandoned her job, like many other residents of General Santos, for a view of the moon as it obscured the sun at about 9:06 am.

Others shouted in excitement, but some spectators stood silently pointing to the sky, some apparently affected by rumours of three days of darkness peddled by religious sects and some cler-



Employees at a Makati office in Manila used X-ray films to watch the spectacle of the covered sun.

gymen. Roman Catholic priest Fr. Vitor Abadillo, one of a few allowed to join Ms Aquino at a heavily-guarded farm outside this city, said an overcast sky spoiled her view. "It's too bad. I feel very sad," he quoted the President as saying.

Scientists viewed and recorded the event with sophisticated telescopes, cameras and videotape equipment from a temporary observatory on the rooftop of the General Santos City Hall as some 5,000 spectators gathered below.

Experts said General Santos offered the best view of the

eclipse, which also plunged parts of Borneo and Sumatra into darkness.

"This is the best I've ever seen. It's incredible," astronomer Diane Lucas of Ohio, who had witnessed other solar eclipses, said.

Also among the foreign viewers was eclipse enthusiast Klaus Mahler, a German who has toured 10 times to see total solar eclipses in other parts of the world.

But some, who expected to experience darkness as it is known at night, were disappointed to see that the sky only darkened as it does at dusk.

Rising concern over US bases

Negotiations on American military bases in the Philippines, to be held next month, have sparked a debate in the country.

By Rod L. Villa Jr/

OLONGAPO CITY: Lawmakers, business executives and community leaders urged the government to draw up plans for any social and economic imbalance if US bases pullout from the Philippines.

They said the country must face the fact that the Americans will leave if they find no more need for their military bases here.

A group of congressmen and reporters noted a rising concern among 45,000 Filipino workers at Subic Naval Base here whose existence will depend on the results of the negotiations of the military bases agreement starting next month.

Their visit to the base of the US 7th Fleet was capped by the holding of the "Talakanay sa Makati," a weekly media forum at the Admiral Royal Hotel here.

At the "Talakanay Forum" were Rep. Raul Roco (Laban, Camarines Sur), chairman of the House special committee on the military bases; Rep. Feliciano Yumano (LP, Batangas), author of several pending bills on this issue; Mayor Richard Gordon, Victor Nepomuceno, of the Philippine Veterans' Legion; Mel Macapagal, representing the Base Credit Union; Sammy Pascasio Haya, head of the city's transport cooperative; Reynaldo Buenaflor of the Olongapo Market Association, and Fr. Shay Cullen, an Irish Columbian priest and head of the Human

Development Centre here.

Roco said that an indepth position paper advocating neutrality and the ban on nuclear weapons from Philippine territory is being rushed as a basis for the coming negotiations.

He said that the Philippines may find itself once again in a "mendicant position" in the review of the bilateral military bases.

Payumo said these and a bill introduced by Rep. Jose de Venecia (Laban, Pangasinan), a member of the House foreign affairs committee, proposing a P7.5 million compensation package will be a mainstay for a fall-back position in the bilateral talks.

Gordon said that he is in favour of retaining the US bases which give \$1.5 million in government revenue every month until the Philippines develops its own economic and military viability.

The city mayor said this may be achieved in the next five years. Roco condemned the perennial "beggar's position" of Filipinos in dealing with the Americans and, along with Gordon and Payumo, urged a "strong political will to demonstrate that the people are capable of lifting themselves by their bootstraps."

Fr. Cullen urged the abrogation of the US bases agreement, saying their presence made the Philippines a pawn in the battle between the US and the Soviet Union.

Contingency plans for Filipino workers in Iraq

THE Philippine government has started implementing its contingency plans for the evacuation of Filipino workers in Baghdad, Iraq in the wake of the worsening conflict between Iran and Iraq.

Labour Secretary Franklin M. Drilon told newsmen that the evacuation centre for the Filipino workers in Baghdad is some 250 kilometres northwest of that city.

Drilon said the Philippine Embassy in Baghdad and the labour attaché in the area are cooperating to effect the evacuation made necessary by the intensified exchanges of missile attacks by Iran and Iraq.

He said the Department of Labour and Employment is remitting \$5,000 for the initial evacuation expenses.

"The evacuation site has accommodations for 350 to 500 people," Drilon said, adding most Filipinos in Baghdad were overstaying contract workers

whose work contract have long expired."

Drilon said the government was considering seriously the implementation of another evacuation option — the removal of Filipinos in Iraq — should the war between Iran and Iraq worsen further.

He said he has received no report of Filipino casualties so far. He implied that the government, much as it wants to, cannot do much about overseas Filipinos who do not want to be evacuated.

The labour chief said he had no report from Tehran, where there are also some Filipino workers.

Tomas Achacoso, director of the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA), said there were not too many Filipinos in Iran as there were no deployments there since the outbreak of the war.

Earlier, Department of

Foreign Affairs Secretary Raul S. Manglapus instructed the Philippine Embassy in Baghdad to be ready to implement the evacuation plan for the 5,000 Filipino workers there when it becomes necessary.

Philippine Ambassador to Iran Surotani Usodan reported to the DFA secretary that it was evacuating 65 Filipino workers based in Tehran, 35 members of their families, 50 Filipinos women married to Iranians, and their children.

In Iraq, Philippine Ambassador Akmal Sakam said he does not recommend at the moment the evacuation of embassy staff and Filipino workers.

He reported, however, that the embassy has made preparations, such as identifying the evacuation centre northwest of Baghdad which can accommodate 1,000 people "if the situation worsens. (E.T. Suarez).

Understanding Filipino Muslims

DID you know that if Philippine history had taken another course, the Muslims might have Islamised the entire archipelago? Prominent Filipino historians have brought out this very important fact in history books. They say that our Muslim brothers could even have seized the leadership in nation-building.

But the coming of the Spaniards prevented this from happening. They Christianised and developed many parts of the country and prevented the spread of what was the more advanced society in the Philippines, that of the Muslim South. One important historical fact remains, and our historians have time and again reminded us of this — that it should be a source of pride for Filipinos that there was at least one part of the Philippines that was never fully conquered by Spain, again the Muslim South.

The Muslims consistently resisted Hispanisation and colonisation. They refused to give up their culture, religion and, to some degree, political independence. Their geographical isolation enabled them to preserve most of their indigenous customs and culture, and most of all, their pride in being Muslim.

It's about time we get to know our Muslim brothers, and appreciate their historical role in the development of the Filipino identity.

Almost the first thing about

the Muslims that comes to minds of Christian Filipinos is that their religion permits them to have more than one wife, and that divorce is a simple thing among them. What is generally not understood well is that only a very small percentage of Muslim Filipinos in fact have more than one wife; that monogamy, not polygamy, is more often the rule in practice, and that divorce is a more complicated process for them than it is popularly believed.

Islam permits a man to have up to four wives but demands that he shall treat them, and provide for them, equally. Separate households are always maintained if the co-wives are the same age, although if there is a major difference in age, they may opt to live together.

There is nothing particularly Islamic about Muslim Filipino clothing styles and habits except that Islamic prohibitions concerning nudity are observed, more strictly in some places than others. When miniskirts were in style, they were seen being worn in Jolo not by Muslim women but by Christians. The rule for Muslim Filipino women is modesty in dress, the ideal being exposure only of the hands and feet and head from the neck up.

Traditional Filipino society generally, whether Christian or Muslim, regards the chastity of the prospective bride as an important virtue. Thus, the premarital background of the

young is carefully monitored. While the situation is now quite different with respect to Christian groups, the Muslims for the most part still tend to feel that any association with the opposite sex outside of the immediate clan, or beyond the most formal manner, makes a young lady less desirable as a future spouse. Free association of the young is perceived to be threatening both to the concept of premarital chastity and to the influence of the family over the marital choice.

Among the major Muslim groups in which social classes are more distant, the man is expected to court and marry a woman belonging to the status of his family. As a rule, a Muslim woman is not permitted to marry outside her religion and it only rarely happens. A Muslim male may marry a non-Muslim woman, and in fact, marriage between Muslim men and Christian women is not unusual in the Philippines.

With the prospect of fighting once again erupting in the Muslim South, getting to know more about our Filipino Muslim brothers and their lifestyle will hopefully lessen this threat of division and make us appreciate each other as one indivisible country respectful of each other's role in history and culture to achieve the true Filipino identity. Fighting will not achieve this.

Courtesy: The People

Job seekers fall prey to glib tongues

By Eva S. Diaz

DESPITE an intensified drive against illegal recruitment, many Filipino job seekers seem not to learn and fall prey to glib-tongued illegal recruiters.

A telex sent to the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration by a West German firm showed a total of 640 Filipino workers have been gyped by three German nationals who

posed as recruiters for the firm.

The telex, sent to POEA director Estelita Espiritu by the company's overseas department, said the three German impostors have been using their company's name despite their non-affiliation with it.

The firm identified the three recruiters as a Heinz W. Bohnes, K. Mueller and Walter Hartman. They allegedly used the address of a firm which is non-existent and telephone number which

later was found to be that of an electrical supplier in Frankfurt. Espiritu said the 640 Filipinos are most probably "jobless there and might be facing deportation charges."

She said the German firm informed POEA that the three impostors had already gyped many job applicants before.

Sources at the POEA also said that the Germans have been in and out of the country "victimising employees."

PBA separates the men from the boys

Banking on basketball

By Recah Trinidad

JERRY Codinera, 21, is well on his way to picking up his first couple of million pesos before he turns 24. But the promising six-foot-five centre of the Philippine national team wants to make a clarification. Making a fortune on the hardwood, he swears, was not part of his original playing plot.

"I just consider the PBA a big challenge," Jerry explains. "I know it as the league where a player has to prove his real worth."

The big money? Now that it's there for the picking, Jerry says he has to work doubly hard to earn every cent of it. This means working with weights, developing more speed, putting on more basketball muscles. Jerry weighs 250 pounds.

Striking it rich in the PBA was not on Jerry's young mind, but don't tell that to his father, policeman Filomeno Codinera Jr., Mr. Baseball of the previous sporting era. When friends, a few years back, started teasing the elder Codinera that he had "money in the bank" in Jerry, who by then had started stunting for Danding Cojuangco's famous NCC squad, the proud father could only nod, both amused and flattered.

Boy Codinera, as Filomeno is popularly known in sports circles, worked himself into a hulking heavyweight, in an effort to add more clout to his famous swat. He succeeded. But the best he got were memories, playing trips abroad, trophies and

accolades. He was Mr. Baseball but he left the diamond with an empty pocket. He continued to risk life and limb working as a Manila cop to raise his four kids.

Boy Codinera is right, it's time to pick up the dividends. His eldest son, Harmon, who was well on his way to becoming a famous pitcher, left the baseball turf and tried his luck in the amateur basketball backyard. Harmon, six-foot-three, doesn't have Jerry's inborn moves, but has gone far enough. He is a second-year pro with Grinbra San Miguel, his P20,000-monthly pay raised by P5,000 for this season.

Harmon is married, Jerry still single. But what Boy Codinera proudly says is real "money in the bank" is his youngest son, Pat, a six-foot-three point guard. Boy rates Pat as the born basketball star among his three boys. Unlike Harmon and Jerry, who first had to wrestle with tough basketball basics, it was basketball all the way for Boy Codinera's youngest son.

Favoured

"Baseball was my love, but basketball, whether we like it or not, is the real lucrative sport," Boy Codinera explains. "We just have to be practical."

The young Codineras are favoured by good height. Boy Codinera is himself a hefty six-footer. But he agrees that his kids took from their grandpa on their mother's side who towered above Filipinos at six-foot-three.

At first, Boy Codinera seemed regretful that he had to pull out

his boys from the baseball diamond. But the wisened Manila cop is straight to the point: he hates to see his kids starve.

Basketball is where the big money is. Ask Robert Jaworski Ramon Fernandez, concededly two of the first basketball millionaires in town.

Basketball has been very good to him, Jaworski explains, one reason he always tried to treat the game kindly. If he often loses his cool over spotty officiating, Jaworski says, it's because he wants to keep the league (PBA) in one piece.

"Look, at lot of people profit from the league, I myself profit from the PBA," Jaworski says, "so it's our duty to see to it that fairness reigns in the league. Even poor daily wage-earners find relief following the fortunes of their teams in the PBA, but if officials cannot assure these simple fans that their teams would get a fair deal during the games, how do you expect them to continuously patronise the league?"

So the Big J, who had threatened to quit the PBA following his team's nightmarish experience at the hands of referees during the semifinals of the recent Reinforced Conference, is definitely seeing action this season.

He is glad that several national team standouts are set to join the pros. But when the papers started printing the calling price of the top amateurs, Jaworski readily offered a few words of advice: Don't ask for the moon.



Baseball legend Boy Codinera (extreme right) has two bankable sons in PBA stars, Jerry and Harmon (centre).

Jaworski definitely took longer maybe close to a decade, before he made his first million in basketball. But let he be misunderstood, the Big J says he has nothing against young cagers striking it rich early in the pro league. Jaworski however cau-



Filipino Americans petition for Marcos' return

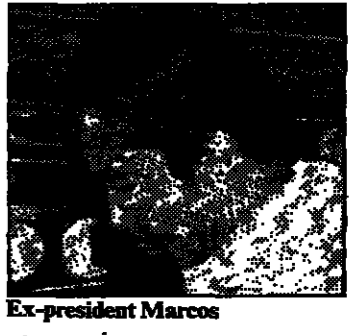
FILIPINOS in the USA urged recently their Congress to support the current effort to heal the wounds and reconcile the differences between President Aquino and former president Marcos for the sake of democracy.

A copy of the petition was presented to former Delegate Rey T. Fajardo, after he delivered his talk on current Philippine developments in Daly City, California, in the course of a lecture-tour of the US West Coast.

Fajardo reported that in a five-point petition manifesto, the Movement for the Restoration of Democracy in the Philippines with coordinating office in Washington, DC, said that the petition is presently being circulated and signed by both Cory supporters and Marcos followers.

The petition-manifesto declares that its signatories believe it is time for political unity and healing in the Philippines and that a strong and free America will be best served by a strong and unified Philippines based on justice and compassion.

The petition's five points state that US Filipino signatories applaud President Aquino and former President Marcos for their inspired efforts to heal, unite and strengthen the Philip-



Ex-president Marcos

pine government. It declares belief that it is against the interests of both the Philippines and the USA that a former president remained in detention in the US against his will, denied his right to return to his native land.

Signatories to the petition also strongly encourage President Aquino to strengthen the economy and political processes against Communism through constructive cooperation with ex-president Marcos, and categorically cite the findings of the US General Accounting Office, the National Revenue Bureau, the US 9th Circuit Court and Japan's IRS report finding "no evidence of wrongdoing on the part of Mr. Marcos."

The petitioners also pledged their strength and support for what is best for America, and asked that Congress "encourage and assist Mrs. Aquino and Mr. Marcos in their healing process."

The petitioners also urged Filipinos back home to undertake a similar move to "show the world that we Filipinos are capable of resolving our internal problems with dignity and honour."

Fajardo reported that he would again pass by Honolulu on his way home to seek a telephone interview with the former president and seek his opinions on the projected homecoming.

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Indonesia to continue to stick by Opec decision despite pressure

JAKARTA, Indonesia, March 26, (AP): Indonesia said today it will continue to abide by the price agreement of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries despite pressure from Japan to lower its price.

"Price fluctuations occur any time. We will not change our contract price every time the market price changes," said Subroto, an adviser to Mines and Energy Minister Ginanjar Kartasasmita.

Based on the agreement, Indonesia will sell its Minas marker crude at \$17.56 per barrel.

Subroto, the former Energy Minister, told reporters Indonesia will not submit to pressure from Japan to lower its oil price to match a decline in the world market. Sixty per cent of Indonesia's oil exports is bought by Japan.

He said the price fall on the world markets had not affected the sales volume to Japan, which remained at last year's average of 300,000 barrels per day.

Subroto, also a former Opec president, is scheduled to accompany Kartasasmita to a meeting of the organisation's price committee, scheduled for early next month.

IMF predicts 2.6pc economic growth this year

WASHINGTON, March 26, (Reuters): The economies of the seven leading industrialised countries should grow by 2.6 per cent this year and by 2.8 per cent in 1989, according to economists at the International Monetary Fund.

The forecast for 1988 is the same as the projection the fund made last September, and slightly higher than an interim assessment that the economists made after October's stock market crash.

After that shock, the fund experts shaved their forecast for growth in the seven major countries — the United States, West Germany, Japan, Britain, France, Italy and Canada — to 2.5 per cent.

Sluggish
But the world economy, although still relatively sluggish, has withstood the shock of the crash in stocks better than expected.

The fund's economists prepare a world economic outlook next year.

Although the next one will not be published until the IMF's board of governors meets in mid-April, its broad outlines were disclosed by monetary officials in Washington.

The outlook, which was being discussed yesterday by the fund's executive directors, also forecasts that world trade will grow 5.4 per cent this year and by 4.5 per cent in 1989.

EEC tops up aid for fight against locusts

BRUSSELS, March 26, (Reuters): The European Economic Community granted a further 440,000 Ecu (\$541,000) of aid to Algeria and Morocco today for the fight against a locust plague that threatens North and West Africa with famine.

A spokesman for the EEC's Executive Commission said the payments bring total EEC aid to northwest African countries suffering under the worst such plague for 30 years to almost two million Ecu (\$2.46 million) since November 1987.

The 240,000 Ecu (\$295,000) for Morocco and the 200,000 Ecu (\$246,000) for Algeria will help finance pesticides and the cost of crop dusters.

The commission's latest decision follows a general alert from the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) yesterday.

The EEC would remain in contact with all authorities concerned and was prepared to act quickly to help any country in the region that was affected, the spokesman added.

New oil find
CARACAS, March 26, (AP): Venezuela's oil company announced yesterday the discovery of sizeable light grade crude reserves in the eastern part of the country.

The find was made following completion of an exploratory well, code-named 'Al Carito 1-X', which produced about 8,000 of 35 degrees API crude at test.

Markets around the world are still jittery

Balancing your portfolio

By Midas

PEOPLE often ask me what is meant by the phrase, "a well-balanced portfolio", but the fact is that there is no simple answer. In this article, however, I shall try to explain the principles behind balancing a portfolio so that you can look more closely at your own investments and see whether they meet the criteria.

The first thing to decide is your basic philosophy if you want to be ultra conservative, take no risks whatsoever, but simply preserve your capital as safely as humanly possible, then how do you go about it? Well, the safest things to keep your money in the largest bank around. But even there you might have problems if, for example, you keep all your money in dollars, over the past two years you would have lost a fortune.

So, in order to balance your deposits, the wisest thing would be to split them among the four major currencies, dollars, sterling, deutschemarks and yen. That way, if the dollar portion falls in value, the others will rise in compensation.

Deposits
However, most people want a portfolio that is a little more adventurous than mere bank deposits. Fundamentally there are four main types of investments, or five if you include property or real estate, although that is really a separate issue that need not concern us here. The four major types of investments

are bank deposits, fixed interest securities, equities and precious metals.

How you balance your savings between the four depends not only on your philosophy of risk or security, but also on the prevailing situation in the world's financial markets.

If the world is just at the beginning of a major bull market, then you'd be foolish not to have the majority of your portfolio in equities since these will inevitably outperform any other kind of investment. Conversely, if the world is about to enter a depression, then equities will be decidedly risky and should only form a small part of your total investments.

Circumstances
Under normal circumstances, when markets are generally stable and no tremendous crises are in the offing, the average portfolio should look something like this:

Bank deposit 17 per cent; gold 10 per cent; fixed interest 25 per cent and equities 50 per cent.

I should stress that the above is a reasonably conservative portfolio for a period of stability and confidence. To increase the safety of the portfolio, the bank deposits and fixed interest securities should be in a variety of major currencies in order to minimise exchange rate risks. To make it more speculative you could either put all of the deposits and fixed interest securities into the currency which seems most likely to increase in value, and/or increase the proportion of equities.

So much for the average portfolio in a normal situation, but what about the situation as it is today? Well, markets around the world are still jittery and prices everywhere, except in Japan, are substantially lower than they were before last October.

This can be looked at in two ways. If you are an optimist it means that equities are cheap and present bargains which should be seized in order to maximise potential profits.

Cautious
On the other hand, if you are a pessimist, it could mean that things are shaky and likely to lead to further falls. Therefore you should avoid overexposure to equities and instead beef up the safer portions of your portfolio.

As a great believer in being cautious with your hard-earned savings I think it is always wiser to keep your eyes firmly fixed on the risks rather than the rewards. Placing a thousand dinars bet on a twenty to one outsider might make you 20,000 dinars richer, but it is far more likely to make you a thousand dinars poorer.

Accordingly, I suggest that now is the time for caution. By all means take some advantage of bargains in the equity markets, but take it easy. I suggest the following portfolio spread would be best suited to today's conditions.

Bank deposits 25 per cent; gold 15 per cent; equities 35 per cent.

However, it is vital to understand that today's markets never stand still. International twenty-four hour electronic trading

means that the situation is constantly changing.

It's no good just organising your portfolio as I have suggested then forgetting all about it. You have to keep an eye on the markets and make adjustments accordingly. For a start, the equities in your portfolio should be spread across the world's major markets, perhaps the majority in the UK and the Far East, but also some in the USA, Europe and Japan. If the markets seem to be rallying as confidence returns, then shift some of your cash into equities to take advantage of the rise. If things look worrying, then move out of equities and into cash or fixed interest securities like bonds, gilts or T bills.

Risk
So far as gold is concerned, I have suggested raising your quota to 15 per cent because the price is pretty low at the moment and so the downside risk seems limited.

However, this should be seen as a long term commitment since I do not see a sudden gold rally in the offing.

To sum up, try to order your portfolio on the see-saw principle, in other words, have some things that will rise when others fall.

If equities shoot ahead, then chances are that fixed interest securities will drop in value, and vice versa.

By spreading your investment between them you should be able to exaggerate the rises and minimise the falls without sacrificing too much in the way of safety.

pace is unsustainable, and are projecting a "somewhat weak payroll employment gain of 150,000" for this month. Still, past experience has shown that these data can spring some big surprises.

While near-term recession fears were supposedly ebbing in the past week, so were stock prices. The Dow Jones average of 30 industrial stocks dropped 108.42 points to 1,978.95, for its worst weekly showing so far in 1988.

The New York Stock Exchange composite index fell 6.07 to 146.58; the Nasdaq composite index for the over-the-counter market 9.04 to 372.54, and the American Stock Exchange market value index 4.47 to 294.64.

Volume on the big board averaged 157.26 million shares a day, against 175.26 million the week before.

As bizarre as investors' responses to positive economic news might seem, there is a local threat that runs through them, especially when you consider that the market's biggest concern is not the known present but the unknown future.

Most economists agree that employment figures are a "coincident" indicator — in other words, a rise in employment now is no reliable indication of better business conditions later on.

The leading indicators, similarly, are old news for the market in the sense that they partly reflect what stock prices themselves were doing several weeks ago.

The chief concern about economic strength is that it may be setting the stage for a tighter credit policy, increasing inflationary pressures, and other forces that might bring on a recession six months or even a year from now.

India and EEC discuss economic relations
NEW DELHI, March 26, (Xinhua): Indo-European Economic Community (EEC) relations in economic and industrial fields were discussed here yesterday during the fifth session of the Indo-EEC joint commission.

During the meeting, Indian Commerce Secretary AN Varma conveyed to the EEC delegation led by EEC Adviser Jean Durieux India's concern over the problem of access to the EEC markets.

Varma said as EEC had emerged as India's third largest trade partner, the question of market access to the EEC was extremely important. Besides, it was an important factor which would help shape strategies for the future growth of trade and economic relations between India and the EEC.

He said the issue had also acquired urgency as Indian exports diversified from primary commodities to value-added and technologically sophisticated products.

In his address, Durieux underlined EEC's desire to assist India to diversify and progressively modernise its production capacity and rejuvenate the structure of India's external trade particularly its exports to the EEC.

He said the commission shared India's concern at the persisting imbalance in trade, although for the first time, there were signs of some improvement in 1987 attributable partly to the take-off in exports of items such as textiles.

Foreign equipment and technology have helped the industry grow, the manager said. Between 1982 and 1986, the country applied imported technology and techniques to produce 270 diesel engines of total horsepower of one million HP for ships. Foreign management skills and better qualified workers who know the trade and international law well, have played a big role in developing the industry, too, the manager said.

Egypt reduces imports
CAIRO, March 26, (Xinhua): Total value of Egypt's imports in the current fiscal year will be at least 1,197 Egyptian pounds (one US dollar is about 2.25 Egyptian pound) less than the previous year, a drop of 12.9 per cent, according to a report of Egypt's Central Bank.

The Middle East News Agency (MENA) today quoted the report of the Central Bank saying that the imports of this fiscal year which will end before next July 1 has so far reached 8,034 million Egyptian pounds as compared with 9,231 million of the same period of the previous year.

The report showed that the reduction of imports of equipment, electronic sets and transport vehicles was about 444 million Egyptian pounds. The imports of meat, foodstuffs and beverages were reduced by 351 million Egyptian pounds, it said. Imports of greases, oils, mineral products and fuel were reduced by 332 million Egyptian pounds. The report also said that imports of wood, paper, textiles were reduced by 316 million Egyptian pounds and those of chemical products, rubber and leather were reduced by 210 million Egyptian pounds. This reduction is due to the shortage of hard currencies and restrictions imposed on imports.

Grain 'output must increase'
MOSCOW, March 26, (Reuters): The Soviet Union is failing to achieve a breakthrough in grain production and the Politburo wants new measures to raise output, according to the Communist Party newspaper Pravda today. The Politburo told leaders of the constituent Soviet republics at a Kremlin meeting on Thursday that the grain crop had increased in the last two years, but improvements had not been evenly spread across the country, Pravda said.

"The quality of the grain produced by the state has improved, yet a breakthrough in grain production has not been achieved, the plan targets for the volume of grain production are not being met," it said. The introduction of intensive technology had helped boost production are not being met," it said. The introduction of intensive technology had helped boost production in some areas but technical know-how was still at a low level in many regions, the newspaper added.

India, Algeria agree to expand trade ties
NEW DELHI, March 26, (Kunal): India and Algeria today resolved to make determined efforts not only to reinforce the ongoing exchanges, but also to impart desired impetus to widen the scope of "our overall cooperation".

These views were expressed by the Indian Finance Minister Narain Dutt Tiwari and Algerian Light Industries Minister Zitouni Messaoudi at the opening session of the Indo-Algerian joint commission meeting, which began here this afternoon.

The meeting is being held to discuss ways and means for expansion of trade and economic relations.

Faith
In his welcome speech, the Indian minister said India enjoys the "friendliest of ties with Algeria. These have been further reinforced by the close rapport between Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and Algerian leader Chadli Benjedid."

Tiwari said India and Algeria have demonstrated their deep faith in the ideals of South-South cooperation. "For us this cooperation is not merely a slogan but a commitment," he stated.

The Indian minister referred to trade relations between the two nations, adding in actual terms "our two-way trade is well below its actual potential and concrete measures need to be taken in this regard".

Efforts
The Algerian minister, who arrived here this morning, said the joint commission meeting will provide an opportunity for an indepth evaluation of the problems standing in the way of increasing trade ties. He reiterated his country's determination to further promote and expand bilateral relations.

He said despite several hurdles, his country is making efforts to increase economic ties.

Japan, Switzerland, Bonn top 3 in 112-nation credit survey
NEW YORK, March 26, (AP): Switzerland has displaced West Germany as the world's second most creditworthy nation behind Japan, a new survey of international bankers reveals.

The United States — for many years the bankers' number one darling — remains stuck in fourth place. And in general the world's bankers seem to be taking a gloomier view of the world debt situation.

In a survey of 112 nations, Institutional Investor, an American financial magazine, found that the average country's credit rating in March had dropped considerably from a similar survey last September.

Every six months the New York-based monthly asks about

100 international banks to rate the creditworthiness of more than 100 nations on a scale of 0 to 100. In the magazine's March survey Japan ranks number one with a score of 94.6, and North Korea 112th with 4.0.

The global average rating was 38.9, down 0.4 points from last September, and down 1.1 points from March 1987. Institutional Investor noted this was the fourth consecutive drop from the peak of 40.6 attained in March 1986.

Countries with higher credit ratings generally find it easier to borrow from international commercial banks and are likely to obtain more favourable credit terms.

"The most stable region in

recent surveys has been Western Europe," the magazine says. "But this time it registered the biggest gain of any region, rising 0.6 points to 73.9."

One banker noted that a rising German mark may cause export difficulties for West Germany, and it faces greater unemployment difficulties than Switzerland.

Drop
Portugal's rating rose 2.2 points, thanks largely to "an austerity programme... European Economic Community entry, and ... full-fledged transition to democracy," the magazine said.

Despite Japan's pre-eminence, the Asia-Pacific region, comprising 19 countries, "led the declines with a sizeable 1.4 point fall"

in the average country rating. Australia fell 2.2 points, the second-largest drop in the survey, due mainly to "continued balance of payments deficits ... and the fact that its borrowing has now reached a very high percentage of Gross National Product."

The Middle East, comprising 14 nations, was up an average 0.4 points "largely because no news is good news for the region."

The biggest gainer was Cyprus, up 1.9 points, because of "consistent improvement in the current account."

In Eastern Europe, "the big gainer was Romania, up 2.2 points because of increased banker confidence that it would maintain its repayment

India and EEC discuss economic relations

NEW DELHI, March 26, (Xinhua): Indo-European Economic Community (EEC) relations in economic and industrial fields were discussed here yesterday during the fifth session of the Indo-EEC joint commission.

During the meeting, Indian Commerce Secretary AN Varma conveyed to the EEC delegation led by EEC Adviser Jean Durieux India's concern over the problem of access to the EEC markets.

Varma said as EEC had emerged as India's third largest trade partner, the question of market access to the EEC was extremely important. Besides, it was an important factor which would help shape strategies for the future growth of trade and economic relations between India and the EEC.

He said the issue had also acquired urgency as Indian exports diversified from primary commodities to value-added and technologically sophisticated products.

In his address, Durieux underlined EEC's desire to assist India to diversify and progressively modernise its production capacity and rejuvenate the structure of India's external trade particularly its exports to the EEC.

He said the commission shared India's concern at the persisting imbalance in trade, although for the first time, there were signs of some improvement in 1987 attributable partly to the take-off in exports of items such as textiles.

Foreign equipment and technology have helped the industry grow, the manager said. Between 1982 and 1986, the country applied imported technology and techniques to produce 270 diesel engines of total horsepower of one million HP for ships. Foreign management skills and better qualified workers who know the trade and international law well, have played a big role in developing the industry, too, the manager said.

Egypt reduces imports
CAIRO, March 26, (Xinhua): Total value of Egypt's imports in the current fiscal year will be at least 1,197 Egyptian pounds (one US dollar is about 2.25 Egyptian pound) less than the previous year, a drop of 12.9 per cent, according to a report of Egypt's Central Bank.

The Middle East News Agency (MENA) today quoted the report of the Central Bank saying that the imports of this fiscal year which will end before next July 1 has so far reached 8,034 million Egyptian pounds as compared with 9,231 million of the same period of the previous year.

The report showed that the reduction of imports of equipment, electronic sets and transport vehicles was about 444 million Egyptian pounds. The imports of meat, foodstuffs and beverages were reduced by 351 million Egyptian pounds, it said. Imports of greases, oils, mineral products and fuel were reduced by 332 million Egyptian pounds. The report also said that imports of wood, paper, textiles were reduced by 316 million Egyptian pounds and those of chemical products, rubber and leather were reduced by 210 million Egyptian pounds. This reduction is due to the shortage of hard currencies and restrictions imposed on imports.

Grain 'output must increase'
MOSCOW, March 26, (Reuters): The Soviet Union is failing to achieve a breakthrough in grain production and the Politburo wants new measures to raise output, according to the Communist Party newspaper Pravda today. The Politburo told leaders of the constituent Soviet republics at a Kremlin meeting on Thursday that the grain crop had increased in the last two years, but improvements had not been evenly spread across the country, Pravda said.

"The quality of the grain produced by the state has improved, yet a breakthrough in grain production has not been achieved, the plan targets for the volume of grain production are not being met," it said. The introduction of intensive technology had helped boost production are not being met," it said. The introduction of intensive technology had helped boost production in some areas but technical know-how was still at a low level in many regions, the newspaper added.

India, Algeria agree to expand trade ties
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Executive Secretary/Secretary

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REQUIREMENTS:

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- Proficiency in typing both Arabic and English.
- English shorthand with a very good speed.
- Not less than 4 years as Executive Secretary/Secretary.

Applicants should send their C.V.s with documentation mentioning telephone number and a recent photograph to:

Executive Secretary/Secretary
P.O. Box 26238,
13123 - Safat Kuwait.

World Business Summary

New international sugar pact enters into force

LONDON, March 26, (AP): Leading sugar-trading nations agreed yesterday to put into immediate force a new international sugar agreement, United Nations commodities chief Kelvin Scott said.

Agreement was reached at a meeting in London called by the United Nations, despite the refusal of Brazil, one of the world's leading sugar exporters, to join the new accord. The new international sugar agreement, which has no provisions for controlling world supplies and prices, is set to run until the end of 1990.

Its entry into force will keep in operation the International Sugar Organisation as a forum for possible discussions on a future pact with regulatory powers. An article of the new accord says that member nations of the International Sugar Organisation may, as soon as they consider it "appropriate," ask the United Nations to convene a conference to negotiate such a pact. The last sugar agreement allowing market intervention to support prices expired at the end of 1984, after which the price collapsed to under 3 cents a pound — its lowest level ever in real terms.

Prices have since picked up, as the world market has turned for surplus to deficit, but are still below the generally agreed average break-even level for producers of 12 cents a pound, analysts said.

The current sugar price is just under 9 cents. Exporting members of the new pact include Cuba, Australia, the European Economic Community, the Dominican Republic and Argentina. Importers include the United States and the Soviet Union. Brazil objected to the new accord because it provides for the cost of running the International Sugar Organisation to be borne most heavily by producer nations.

China now one of world's major ship exporters

BEIJING, March 26, (Oana-Xinhua): China has become one of the major ship exporters in the world. Over the past seven years China has built 170 ships for export, which have a combined loading capacity of 1.9 million tons. The largest had a capacity of 108,000 tons.

They have included oil tankers, freighters, container and refrigerated ships and other ships for special purposes.

About 40 per cent of the ships built last year were exported. The country has also exported ship parts and repaired foreign ships. All this has earned the country \$1.8 billion, a senior manager from the China State Shipbuilding Corporation said.

Foreign equipment and technology have helped the industry grow, the manager said. Between 1982 and 1986, the country applied imported technology and techniques to produce 270 diesel engines of total horsepower of one million HP for ships. Foreign management skills and better qualified workers who know the trade and international law well, have played a big role in developing the industry, too, the manager said.

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Alshall price indices

Sharp increase in Kuwait trade volume

ALSHALL index for Kuwaiti shareholding companies recorded on Wednesday an average of 37.61 points with an increase of 0.07 points over last week.

Alshall index for Gulf shareholding companies reached 48.43 points with an increase of 1.41 points for the same period.

The trading volume for Kuwaiti shares reached 27.45 million shares at a daily average of 5.49 million shares with a substantial increase of 128 per cent over the previous week daily average of 2.41 million shares.

Gulf traded shares reached 27.16 million shares at a daily average of 5.43 million shares with an increase of 22.3 per cent over last week daily average of 4.44 million shares.

The value of Kuwaiti traded shares was KD5.52 million at a daily average of KD1.1 million representing an increase of 83 per cent over last week daily average of KD0.603 million. The value of Gulf traded shares was KD0.907 million at a daily average of KD0.181 million at an increase of 65 per cent over last week daily average of KD0.11 million.

In spite of the general increase in the market yet, about 80 per cent of the jump in Gulf shares' index is due to the deletion of two companies from trading by the stock exchange.

Those companies were not traded for a long time and their prices were very low. This resulted in increasing the gap between Kuwait

and Gulf price indices to about 11 points in favour of Gulf shares.

For Kuwaiti shares the services sector had the load at 52 per cent of total trading of which Kuwait commercial markets had 69 per cent followed by Mobile Telephone Systems at 23 per cent then Kuwait Computer Company at 4 per cent.

The banking sector came second at 21.8 per cent of which the Gulf Bank had 30.6 per cent followed by Kuwait National Bank at 26.4 per cent then the Commercial Bank and Kuwait Finance House at 16 per cent each.

The investment sector came third at 17 per cent of which Investment Pearl Kuwait had 87.3 per cent followed by the commercial facilities at 6.2 per cent.

For Gulf shares other companies' sector had the lead at 65.4 per cent. Ras Al Khaima White Cement ranked first at 50.4 per cent followed by Bahrain International Bank at 18.3 per cent then Gulf Investments Company at 9.8 per cent.

The apparent increase in the volume and value of traded shares is partly related to the weak performance of the market during the previous weeks and in particular last week which is our reference point of comparison for this week. It can also be related to the concentration of trading in certain companies for special reasons such as the big jump of trading in the services sector due to the concentration on Kuwait commercial markets.

French brokerage firm seeks Gulf investors

By Jadranka Porter

FINAFUTURES, a growing French brokerage company operating on international financial futures and options markets, is seeking to add Gulf investors to its list of clients.

The company's General Manager, Philippe Ogier, is currently in Kuwait on the first leg of a Gulf tour which will also take him to Bahrain, the UAE, Oman and Saudi Arabia.

Reputation

The company's approach is twofold. It can play a consultative role but it also offers a wide range of brokerage services in futures as well as opportunities to invest in portfolio management.

Finafutures is a subsidiary of Finacor, one of the largest European continental interbank brokerage houses. Finacor, which has a fine reputation as a money broker, helps Finafutures



Philippe Ogier

combine into its strategy the two dimensions of the financial markets, cash and futures.

This is particularly important, claims Ogier, because of a worldwide trend towards greater integration of cash and futures markets. "Futures markets and more generally out-of-balance

sheet markets are gaining in importance in the financial world but they remain closely linked to interbank markets," says Ogier.

Finafutures' activities are divided into three main areas of operation.

Strategies

In Paris, Finafutures is cooperating closely with its parent company Finacor promoting arbitrage strategies between traditional markets such as Eurodeposits and domestic futures market such as the MATIF (Marché à terme des instruments financiers) in which the Finacor Group is the leader.

In Chicago, Finafutures Inc. is acting as an independent broker trading in currencies, interest rates, indices and other futures and options markets.

The Chicago office provides an immediate access to the American market and handles a large chunk of the company's business. Finafutures is capable

of providing worldwide brokerage services through its correspondents.

In addition, Finafutures Inc. is marketing, through some of its US contacts, a variety of trading programmes in futures. These include a scheme whereby the invested capital is guaranteed by a first-class signature.

Capital

The minimum investment capital for this programme is \$300,000 and the average annual returns over a 10 year period have been over 50 per cent.

Another package is a non-guaranteed programme with the minimum investment capital of \$250,000 with average returns over a 10-year period of more than 100 per cent.

A programme for smaller investors includes a private placement of a minimum of \$20,000 with no guarantee on the invested amount but with an option to subscribe or withdraw on a monthly basis.

Renewed dollar weakness may require tightening towards year-end

Fed to maintain interest rates at current level

THE US dollar ended the week on the weaker side particularly against the Japanese yen in spite of the intensive intervention by the Federal Reserve of the US.

The US currency has shown some stability in recent weeks because of the publication of several favourable data on the US economy.

Among the data released last week are the following:

GNP: The Gross National Product, the broadest measure of the country's economic health, expanded at a 4.8 per cent annual rate in the final quarter of 1987. This is the second revision of GNP growth and shows more strength than previously believed in such key sectors as consumer spending, business investment and US exports.

Growth

The upward revisions in GNP pushed growth rate in 1987 to 4 per cent, compared to 2.2 per cent in 1986.

Personal Income: Increased by 0.9 per cent in February, to \$33.9 billion to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 3.91 trillion after rises of 0.3 per cent in January and 0.8 per cent in December.

Personal Consumption, or consumer spending increased by 0.7 per cent in January and 0.8 per cent in December. Consumer spending fell \$16.1 billion in the fourth quarter of 1987, increasing speculation that the October stock market crash have affected the spending habits of consumers.

Reforms

Wang said substantial revenues were needed as China transformed its socialist economy to a more market-orientated model and strove for rapid economic growth. "It therefore will be hard to eliminate the deficit within the next two or three years."

China will have budget deficit despite plans to impose new taxes

BEIJING, March 26, (AP): China's finance minister said yesterday the government will have a budget deficit for the third straight year in 1988 despite plans to impose new taxes, issue more treasury bonds and continue its policy of fiscal austerity.

Wang Binqian, in an address to the National People's Congress, said the deficit in 1988 will be 8 billion yuan (\$2.2 billion), the same as in 1987 and up slightly from 1986.

Wang said the government would also try to increase revenues by imposing a new tax on the use of land in urban areas and issuing state treasury bonds worth 9 billion yuan (\$2.4 billion), 3 billion yuan (\$811 million) more than last year.

Wang said the government would continue to hold down spending on capital construction and contain administrative costs, steps taken after overall spending jumped 20.1 per cent in 1985 and 12.4 per cent in 1986.

In February the state council ordered all government units to curtail purchases by 20 per cent this year, and Wang warned that

sumers. Personal Savings has increased more in February, increasing by 5.2 per cent from 14.8 per cent in January largely because of tax savings from the tax reform act of 1986.

Disposable personal income rose \$37.2 billion in February after a \$19.2 billion increase in January.

Intervention

The intensive intervention by the various central banks shows that current dollar status quo, and is likely to dissuade the market from significantly testing the lower trading levels. For the interim, the markets interpretation of better trade numbers.

Whilst unlikely to take the dollar significantly higher, will underpin the current trading bands.

However, a further softening of the US dollar is anticipated. With concerns of twin budget and trade deficits remaining largely unaddressed, this still represents a nervous overhang to the market and the outlook must remain for a lower dollar over the course of the year with its upside potential extremely limited.

As to interest rates, with inflationary indicators sufficiently contained, the Federal Reserve appears reasonably content to maintain interest rates at current levels with the Federal fund intervention rate oscillating within a narrow 6.4-6.9 per cent range.

Whilst the administration may be keen to see a softening in

policy, particularly if numbers come in any weaker in this election year, cautious that it may propel the dollar lower, it would only allow for a very slight easing. Indeed the reverse remains evident, that renewed dollar weakness may require tightening particularly towards year-end.

Market attention has focussed entirely on sterling over the past week, after a rise above 3.10 marks prompted an official cut in interest rates on March 17.

United Kingdom

The UK financial markets were hit on Friday by the UK balance of payments, which were significantly worse than market expectations.

The current account was in deficit by £720 million after an £844 million shortfall in January. That compared with market expectations for a £400 million GAP.

Despite a decline in imports volumes in February, exports also fell on the month, then resulting in the current account decline to the £720 mn level.

Improvement

The outlook for the year will remain poor now that February, normally a strong month, has been shown weak.

The data knocked the pound down to \$1.8280 and about 3.075 marks, which has given the dealers a buying opportunity.

Sterling ended at \$1.8430/40, up from 1.8415/25 on Friday. Gains over the mark were slower with the pound ending at 3.083 marks.

Most analysts had been looking for a much better improvement on January's £905 million current account deficit, which may have been distorted by the introduction of new European Community customs procedures.

The headline figure on the trade data obscured the fact that imports in both February and January were down on the fourth quarter 1987 average, which analysts said undermined the argument that the economy was overheating.

The prospect of further sterling strength lay behind talk of another half point base rate cut, which would have taken them to eight per cent, the lowest level in almost a decade. But sterling fell sharply after current account deficit was announced, leaving the outlook for rates unclear.

The immediate prospect for stable interest rates, in the absence of any major economic indicators until after the Easter holiday, the market is likely to track fluctuations in sterling very closely.

The UK authorities tend to be much happier with higher rates, which would in theory serve to reduce consumer spending and inflationary pressures, but sterling would have to lose its current attraction for a rise to be feasible.

It now appears that the downside for interest rates was limited, and the outlook was for a steady to slightly firmer run-in to Easter.

Provided by NBK weekly market review.

China will have budget deficit despite plans to impose new taxes

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Wang said the government would continue to hold down spending on capital construction and contain administrative costs, steps taken after overall spending jumped 20.1 per cent in 1985 and 12.4 per cent in 1986.

In February the state council ordered all government units to curtail purchases by 20 per cent this year, and Wang warned that

6 per cent in 1987 to 234.7 billion yuan (\$63.4 billion), while expenditure also rose 6 per cent to 242.7 billion yuan (\$65.6 billion). The draft budget for 1988 calls for revenues of 255.45 billion yuan (\$69 billion) and spending of 263.45 billion yuan (\$71.2 billion).

Wang said 12.8 billion yuan (\$3.5 billion) in revenues will come from foreign loans, up from 10.3 billion yuan (\$2.8 billion) in 1987.

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In February the state council ordered all government units to curtail purchases by 20 per cent this year, and Wang warned that

"overspending will not be allowed." He said the state would substantially boost spending in agriculture, up 14.6 per cent in 1988 to 15.4 billion yuan (\$4.2 billion). Officials have stressed the need for more investment in rural areas following several years of less grain production and a trend among individual farmers to use profits to build houses and buy TVs rather than further invest in their land.

The budget for capital construction is slated to fall about 4.5 per cent to 63.3 billion yuan (\$17.1 billion); education, science and public health is to receive 44.7 billion yuan (\$12 billion), up 15 per cent; and defence is allotted 21.5 billion yuan (\$5.8 billion), up 5 per cent.

Wang also urged greater controls over government taxing and finances, saying tax evasion, withholding of profits, extortion and doctored accounts have led to "loss of an enormous amount of state revenue and ... also sabotaged party policies and principles."

The agreement which regulates economic and scientific cooperation between the two groups is also expected to be followed by a communiqué.

Economic cooperation to be reviewed

BONN, March 26, (Kuna): Foreign ministers of the European Economic Community and the Gulf Cooperation Council are likely to meet in Luxembourg sometime in June to discuss how to streamline economic cooperation between the two groups, diplomats said.

A spokesman for the Bonn government, which is the current chairman of the European Economic Community, told Kuna the June meeting hinges on the GCC foreign ministers conference slated for June 5 and 6 in which the council is expected to endorse an EEC-GCC cooperation agreement initiated in Brussels last Thursday.

The same agreement would be scrutinised by all capitals involved until the June meetings, the spokesman added.

If no serious reservations were voiced against the agreement, it would be officially ratified by the Luxembourg meeting.

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KD deposits firm in quiet market

KUWAIT dinar interbank deposits remained soft at the short end of the market yesterday but firmed by at least 1/4 point in the fixed periods as banks covered positions.

Dealers said high market liquidity exerted downward pressure on day-to-day funds, keeping them at Thursday's low levels. Gulf banks are closed on the Muslim Friday weekend.

Trade was thin — a normal trend during the European week-end — but dealers said some banks were also keen to hold funds ahead of Wednesday's issue of 79.5 million dinars worth of one-year government bonds. The Central Bank tried to sell 91-day treasury bills on the secondary market but there were no takers.

Funds

Tomorrow-next and overnight funds were well offered at Thursday's levels of one per cent, while spot-next rose to two per cent. One-week funds were quoted at five, four per cent, with business reported at four.

One-month deposits rose 3/8 point to 5 1/8, 4 5/8 per cent and traded at 4 3/4. Two and three-months edged up 1/4 point to 5 1/8, 4 5/8 per cent. Six-months and one-year also firmed 1/4 point to 5 1/4, 4 3/4 per cent and 5 1/2, five per cent respectively.

The Central Bank adjusted its dinar exchange rate firmer to 0.27399/09 to the dollar from 0.27464/74 on Thursday. Commercial banks quoted spot rates of 0.27398/04.

Saudi rial interbank deposits were mainly steady yesterday in a very dull market normal for the European weekend with major offshore players absent.

Fixed period rates were steady at Thursday's closing levels but some day-to-day deposits edged higher in response to position covering by banks short of funds.

Dealers reported demand for tomorrow-next funds, which traded at levels of around 5/8, 1/8 per cent. Spot-next edged up to 6 3/4, 1/4 per cent while one-week rose 1/8 point to 6 5/8, 1/8 per cent.

One, three and six months deposits were steady at 6-9/16, 3/8 per cent, 6-13/16, 11/16 per cent and 7-5/16, 1/8 per cent respectively.

One-year was also little changed at 7-11/16, 1/2 per cent.

The spot rial was steady at 3.7502/06 to the dollar.

Experts to discuss future of Gulf aluminium industry

A CONSULTATIVE technical committee on aluminium manufacturing in the Gulf is scheduled to hold a meeting here on Tuesday to discuss the future of the aluminium industry in the Gulf region.

A member of the committee, who is also vice president of the Arab Association of Engineering Industries, Mohammed Naki, told Kuna that the meeting would discuss the unification of efforts of the Gulf Cooperation Council states in addition to Iraq in the field of aluminium manufacturing and ways of boosting such industry in the international market.

Preparations

Naki said that the committee would also review preparations for the fourth international Arab conference for aluminium due to be held in Bahrain next year. The conference is being held every two years, and the three earlier conferences were held in Kuwait, Cairo and Dubai.

GOVERNMENT TENDERS

Tender No. MEW/22/4/180-87/88
Relevant fee: KD20
Initial guarantee: 2 1/2% of offer's value
Closing date: 12.00 noon, Tuesday, 10.5.88

Tender No. PTT/87/10-87/88
Tender's Internal No. 755/88
Concerned party: Ministry of Communications
Requirements: Supply, installation, test & maintenance of two multi channel digital microwave joints, the first one between Central Bldg (Telecommunication) and Umm Al Aish Station (Satellite) and the second one between Ras Al Salmya Exchange & Failaka Island Exchange and fiber light joint between Central Building & Umm Al Aish Station.

Relevant fee: KD150
Initial guarantee: 2% of offer's value
Closing date: 12.00 noon, Tuesday, 24.5.1988.

Tender No. P/35/88 AWW/88 (1st & 2nd Group)
Tender's Internal No. 739/88
Concerned party: Ministry of Public Health
Requirements: Laundry services

Relevant fee: KD100
Initial guarantee: 5% of offer's value
Closing date: 12.00 noon, Tuesday, 19.4.88

Qualified tenderers:
1. Al Ahmadi Washing Station Co.
2. W.J. Towell Agency Co.
3. Kuwait Maritime & Mercantile Co.
4. Kuwait Pritchard Co.
5. Kuwait Fruits & Vegetables Supply Co.

6. Scientific Appliances & Trdg. Est.
7. Wail Al Nusfi & Partners Trdg. Co.
8. Mousad Abdullah Al Sayer & Partners Co.
9. Al Nusfi Cleaning Co.
10. Bader Al Mulla & Bros
11. Tazilco Est.
12. Al Sani Chemical Products
13. United Commercial Group Co.
Tender No. M/1988/8
Tender's Internal No. 770/88
Concerned party: Kuwait Oil Company

Requirements: Installation of flow pipe lines & other relevant works for 6 wells in gathering centres Nos. 9, 10, 15, and 16.
Relevant fee: KD20.
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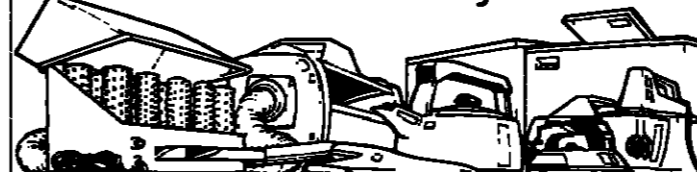


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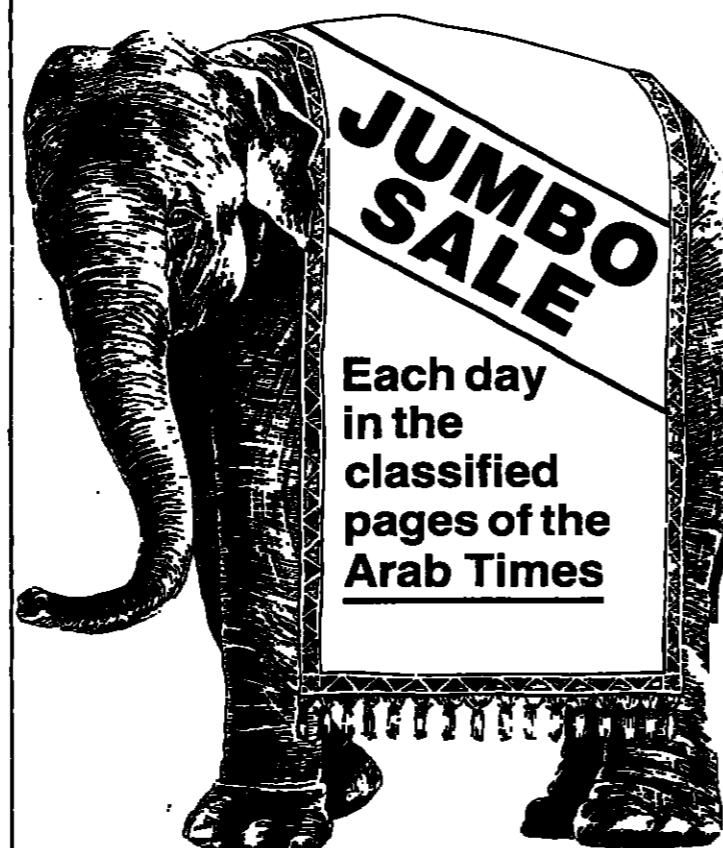


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Stewart hits 65 for Players tourney lead

PONTE VEDRA, Fla., March 26, (Reuters) Payne Stewart fired a sensational seven-under-par 65 yesterday to take the second round lead at the \$1.25 million Players Championship golf tournament with an eight-under-par 136 total.

Stewart vaulted into the lead with an eagle three on the 582-yard ninth hole after a long drive and a three-wood to within 15 feet of the cup.

He had six birdies to go with his eagle and one lone bogey over the demanding 6,857-yard tournament. Players Club layout to seize a one-shot lead over first round leader Mark McCumber and Mike Reid.

Posted
McCumber, who opened with a 65 on Thursday, struggled to an even-par 72 in strong winds that left him at seven-under-par 137 along with Reid, who posted a three-under-par 69.

South African David Frost is still in contention for his first tour title and the \$225,000 first place prize after he finished with a one-under-par 71 for a six-under-par 138 total along with Dan Pohl and Morris Hatalasky.

Curt Byrum, Gil Morgan and former Players Championship winner Calvin Peete are only three back at five-under-par 139 with several other players only four back at four-under-par 140, including Australian Greg Norman, who struggled to a two-over-par 74.

Defending champion Sandy Lyle of Britain missed the cut after finishing at 152, while Spain's Seve Ballesteros was another victim after his 78 left him at 10-over-par 154. The cut came at two-over-par with 72 players surviving for the final two days of play.

Missed
Stewart's round of 65 was only one off the course record of 64 set by Fred Couples in 1984 and is even more remarkable in that he missed two short birdie putts of three feet and four feet.

"It was a great round of golf," said Stewart. "My best this year when you take into consideration the difficulty of the course and the wind. It was one of the best ball striking rounds I've had in a long time."

Alcott and Walker share top place

PHOENIX, Ariz., March 26, (Reuters) First round leader Amy Alcott scrambled to an even-par 73 yesterday and compatriot American Colleen Walker posted a two-under-par 71 to be Alcott after 36-holes with an eight-under-par 138 total in the \$350,000 Turquoise Classic women's golf tournament.

Alcott started the day with a birdie on the first hole and followed with birdies on the third and fourth holes. A birdie chip-in put her at 20 yards on the 10th hole put her at 12-under-par for the tournament.

However, Alcott bogeyed the 12th hole after placing her shot in the bunker and failed to get up and down. She scrambled to save par on the 13th, 15th and 16th holes before bogeying the 17th from another bunker. A double bogey on the 18th dropped Alcott to eight-under-par after her drive hit a tree and bounced into the water.

Forward
"I scrambled on the back nine but my scrambling came as a result of good shots," said Alcott. "Scrambling makes the round fun. I'm playing well and I'm looking forward to tomorrow."

Co-leader Colleen Walker was just the opposite, hitting 17 greens in regulation in recording a two-under-par 71.

"I had a very steady round and I'm pleased." Her round included three birdies, an eagle, one bogey, her only bogey of the tournament.

"I'm surprised to find myself in the lead because the conditions are perfect for low scores," added Walker.

South Korean Ok-Hee Ku posted the low round of the day, a 68 to go with her opening round 71 and left her one stroke off the pace with a 139 total.

The winner of this tournament tomorrow will collect first prize money of \$52,500.

Thailand Open

BANGKOK, March 26, (Reuters) Taiwan's Chen Liang Hsi scored a two-under-par 70 for a three round score of 207 to retain his one-stroke lead in the \$100,000 Thailand Open golf championship today.

But first-round leader Hsieh Yu Shu, also of Taiwan, whose poor putting dropped him down the field yesterday, drew back into contention with the best round of the tournament, a six-under-par 66, to end the day on 208.

Australia's Jeff Senior shot a 68 to move into third position on 209.

WILANDER OVERCOMES NOAH FOR FINAL

Angry Connors outplays Mecir



Connors rejoices at winning the semifinal. (Reuters wirephoto)

KEY BISCAVNE, Florida, March 26, (AP) Jimmy Connors was penalised the final point of the second set for a temper tantrum, but regained his composure and beat Miloslav Mecir 6-3, 3-6, 7-5, 6-3 in yesterday's semifinals of the International Players Championships.

Top-seeded Mats Wilander of Sweden scored 11 straight points in one stretch as he eliminated No. 6 Yannick Noah of France 6-4, 6-3 last evening in the other semifinal.

Incensed
Top-seeded Steffi Graf of West Germany was to play No. 2 Chris Evert of the United States in the women's finals this evening.

Connors argued when a Mecir shot was called good, and he became incensed after umpire Richard Kaufman gave him a warning for unsportsmanlike conduct. When the argument continued, Kaufman assessed the American a penalty point for delay of game.

Because Mecir was leading 5-3, 40-30, the penalty point gave him the set, the first Connors had lost in the two-week, \$2.1-million tournament.

Connors then lost the first three games of the third set.

"My mind was kind of blank at that time," he said. "The best thing to do was just try to get my composure back and get a few balls in play."

For the rest of the three-hour match, Connors concentrated on

his Czech opponent. Connors broke serve three straight times to save the set and then rushed to a 5-1 lead in the last set as he eliminated the No. 3 seed and defending champion.

Noah, plagued by inconsistency in his serves and volleys, trailed 6-4, 4-1 before he won three straight games and led 40-love on his serve.

But Wilander won every point in the remainder of the set and then broke Noah's serve to start the final set.

Connors' dispute with Kaufman began in the first set after the umpire overruled a linesman who had called a Mecir shot wide.

When a Mecir shot was called good to give him a set point in the second set, Connors argued that Kaufman should again overrule and call the ball out.

"I've said my whole life the overrule is the worst rule in the game," Connors told reporters later. "I've said it when I've won. I've said it when I've lost. Until they change that, there's going to be controversy all the time."

A dispute in the semifinals of the same tournament two years ago prompted an umpire to assess a series of penalties against Connors and award the match to Ivan Lendl.

Kaufman issued the warning for unsportsmanlike conduct after Connors said, "You're using one eye to umpire today. Wake up the other eye."

In response to the warning,

Connors pointed at Kaufman and shouted, "I'm warning you, I'm warning you."

When the delay penalty was assessed, Connors picked up a cup of water near the umpire and threw it. He then knocked over his chair with his racket.

"I can't beat both of you," Connors told Kaufman. "You're doing a bad job."

When Alan Mills of Britain, the tournament referee, and Stefan Fransson of Sweden, the Grand Prix supervisor, came onto the court, Connors told them he wanted Kaufman replaced.

"Either he goes or I go," Connors said. "I'll do the same thing I did two years ago. Tell me what right I have as a player. I'm not going to continue being abused."

Later, during a changeover, Connors berated Kaufman, using obscene language. Connors also made several obscene gestures during the match, but he wasn't warned or penalised in the final two sets.

Fransson said Connors will be fined. The amount will be determined when an investigation of the dispute is concluded, Fransson said.

Denied
The crowd noisily supported Connors throughout the match, and he denied to reporters that he had considered quitting after the second set.

"Did I think about it? I can't afford that any more," he said.

Zurbriggen retains World Cup

SAALBACH, Austria, March 26, (Reuters) Pirmin Zurbriggen retained the men's overall World Cup title in exciting fashion today after Italian ski hero Alberto Tomba crashed while leading the final race of the season.

The Swiss all-rounder finished fourth behind veteran Paul Frommelt of Liechtenstein in a dramatic slalom as Tomba, double gold medalist at the Calgary Winter Olympics, straddled a gate on the second run and slid off the course.

Overall
The Italian's crash did not affect the final outcome of the battle for the overall title as Zurbriggen had only to finish second to retain the crown.

Adding a third championship to the downhill and super-giant slalom titles he already possessed.

Frommelt won the slalom in one minute 39.65 secs ahead of West German Armin Bittner in



Michela Fagnini (left) and Zurbriggen hold their trophies after placing first in the women's and men's overall standings. (Reuters wirephoto)

1:40.24 with Austrian Hubert Strolz third in 1:40.48.

Zurbriggen's fourth place ear-

ned him 12 points to give him a final advantage of 29 points over Tomba in the overall standings.

Tomba's hopes of snatching the overall title from the Swiss had rested on him winning his 10th World Cup race of the season with Zurbriggen finishing no higher than eighth.

The Italian, who also failed to finish yesterday's giant slalom in which Zurbriggen took third place, was well placed after setting the fastest time on the first run down a course with a height difference of 208 metres and 63 gates. The Swiss was only just on target in seventh place.

But on the second run, Zurbriggen stormed down the course in 40.73 secs to make certain of fourth place, leaving Tomba, starting last in the reverse order of the first leg, with the knowledge that the title was already out of his grasp.

The Italian, winner of six slaloms this season and the Olympic slalom and giant slalom gold medals, went all out for victory on the day, but after just 13 seconds straddled a gate and fell.

PBAK to hold handicap bowling

THE Philippine Bowlers Association in Kuwait (PBAK) will hold the Handicap Bowling Tournament on Friday, April 8, at the 300 Club at 9.00 am.

This is PBAK's second bowling tournament this year and the event will be divided into two playing groups: Group A (men & women) 9.00 am - 12 noon and Group B (men & women) 1.00 pm - 4.00 pm.

Average
All bowlers will play three games to select the top 30 players from the men and 16 players from women. The handicap will be taken from the average of each bowler who participated in the recently concluded First Filipino

Non-pro Bowling League.

For those who did not play in the league, the handicap will be based on the 3-game average in the PBAK Open Bowling Tournament.

Handicap may also be considered from other leagues and tournaments recognised by PBAK. The score of each bowler will be taken from the total 3-game series plus handicap on each game.

The top bowlers will play another 3-game to select the top 12 and 8 players for men and women respectively and in the step-ladder round only 6 men and 4 women will play to decide the championship.

Trophies will be awarded to the top three finishers for both men and women and medals to the 3rd to 5th runners-up. Medals will also be given as special awards to high game and series with handicap for both men and women.

Details
The last date for entries is April 6 at 8.00 pm and the fee is KD 4,500. For more details, contact any PBAK officer or Tel. 2448000 at the 300 Club.

The tournament is sponsored by Gulf Trading and Maritime Establishment (GTME) and is being organised by Philippine Bowlers Association in Kuwait (PBAK).

America's Cup

AUCKLAND, March 26, (Reuters) A return to court seems the only way to resolve the monohull-versus-multihull impasse between 1988 America's Cup challengers New Zealand and the San Diego holders, New Zealand campaign boss Michael Fay said today.

Speaking at a news conference on the eve of the launching of his 38 metre monohull yacht, New Zealand, Fay said the intention of the San Diego Yacht Club to race in a multihull was the only barrier to a challenge off San Diego in September.

"I think at the end of the day (court) is the only place we can do it, if between challenger and defender we cannot get an agreement," Fay said.

Japanese riders capture pole spots

SUZUKA, Japan, March 26, (Reuters) Japanese riders captured pole positions in both the 500cc and 250cc classes for the season's opening Japanese Grand Prix as heavy rain made for slow times in the second practice session today.

Tadashi Taira, who finished sixth in the overall championship standings last season, capitalised on a fast lap around the 5.9-km Suzuka circuit during a less wet practice session yesterday to win the front slot for tomorrow's race.

Taira is the first Japanese rider to win pole position in a 500cc Grand Prix.

A heavy downpour drenched this twisty, extended figure-of-eight course today and none of the riders could better their own times yesterday.

Twice world champion Eddie Lawson was second fastest on his Yamaha, followed by fellow American Kevin Schwantz on a Suzuki.

Reigning world champion Australian Wayne Gardner made an all-out effort on his Honda to better this starting position in today's practice sessions but failed to move up from fourth slot.

"It's in the front row and that's good enough for me," a relaxed Gardner said afterwards. The top five riders are placed in the front line.

"I was actually enjoying the wet weather today," Gardner said.

Gardner, the first Australian to win the riders' championship, predicted that tomorrow's race would be close between himself, Lawson, Schwantz and Briton Niall MacKenzie, who rides a Honda.



Boitano during the long programme. (Reuters wirephoto)

Boitano takes crown

BUDAPEST, March 26, (Reuters) American Brian Boitano regained the men's world figure skating title yesterday despite a performance which fell short of his Olympic gold medal display in Calgary last month.

Brian Orser of Canada beat Boitano with a brilliant free skating showing, but the American had a sufficient cushion after the earlier sections of the competition to capture the title.

Orser, the defending champion, won the silver medal while Viktor Pentenko of the Soviet Union salvaged the bronze despite a series of mistakes. Grzegorz Filipowski of Poland, second before the finale, was fourth.

Accomplished
Canadian Kurt Browning made figure skating history earlier in the evening when he accomplished a quadruple jump for the first time in competition.

His achievement was immediately ratified by the International Skating Union (ISU) and pre-empted Boitano's later attempt, though the American two-footed his landing and could not have claimed the honour.

After he and Orser hugged each other following their performances, Boitano, 24, said: "I feel great and I could not be happier with what I did."

"I know it was not as good as Calgary, but to come here, skate like this and do quadruple — even if it was not perfect — makes me feel great."

Earlier in the day, US champion Debi Thomas won the women's short programme but Olympic gold medalist Katerina Witt of East Germany still was the overall leader.

Thomas excited the crowd with a jazzy performance and earned first-place marks from five judges, giving her first place in the short programme, which counts for 20 per cent of the total score.

But combined with the school figure results, which Witt won and Thomas was third, the East German still had the overall advantage.

But the margin was so thin that whoever wins this evening's long programme will win the title, just as in Calgary last month, when Witt won. The long programme counts for 50 per cent of the score.

Deccan thrash Diamond

DECCAN BLUES, Cricket Club, which joined the cricket scene in the middle of the present season, scored their fourth victory when they beat Diamond Cricket Club by 36 runs at the Church ground on Friday.

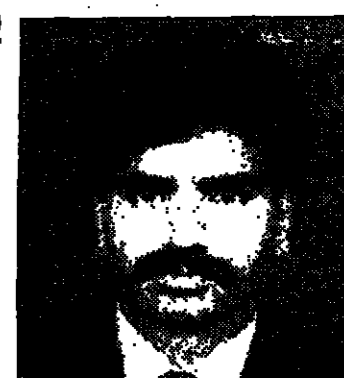
Deccan, after having been put in to bat, lost Dr Naidu and the other opener Shahid early on in the innings. Mumtaz Hussain and Hafiz repaired the damage by putting on 88 runs for the third wicket before Hafiz was out for 36 with the score at 104.

Mumtaz kept on batting brilliantly and went on to score 130 as his team scored 192 in 25 overs. This was Mumtaz' third century of the season and he hit three sixes and 15 fours.

For Diamond, Liaquat bowled well to take three wickets for 33.

Diamond started their innings on an excellent note by scoring 70 runs in the first 10 overs, helped by fielding lapses by the Deccan fielders. But the Deccan bowlers soon settled down to an accurate line and length to take control of the match.

Shahid Ali Khan took four



Mumtaz: 3rd ton.
wickets for 16 runs in only five overs as Diamond were only able to put on 156 in 24.3 overs. Liaquat with 60 runs was the top scorer for Diamond. The other batsmen to reach the double figures were Asghar, Shahid and Hafiz with 14 runs each and Afzal who scored 13.

The other Deccan players to bowl well were Akhilesh with two for 20 in five overs and Hafiz with one wicket. Hafiz was also responsible for three of Diamond's batsmen being run out.

Wojdat and Jager break world records

ORLANDO, Florida, March 26, (UPI) Tom Jager and Artur Wojdat broke world records yesterday in the Phillips 66-US Swimming Indoor National Championships.

Jager, the world record holder in the 50-metre freestyle, lowered his mark to 22.23 seconds, while Wojdat became the first Polish swimmer in history to claim a world record, in the 400-metre freestyle.

Wojdat, 19, who is part of an elite group of Polish swimmers allowed to train in Mission Viejo, California, kicked off the evening's record onslaught in Justus Aquatic Centre, winning his event in 3:47.38.

Broken
Jager, a member of the 1984 US Olympic team, shaved nine one-hundredths of a second off of his record set last summer in the Pan Pacific Swimming Association Championships at Brisbane, Australia.

"I had a dream last night that my family was watching the news and they saw that someone had broken the world record in the 400-metre free, and that it was me," Wojdat said.

Dara Torres set two US records. She set the mark in the 50-metre freestyle with 25.59 in morning preliminaries, then broke the American record in the 100-metre freestyle on the opening leg of the 4 x 100 metre freestyle relay.

Ngugi wins 3rd successive world cross-country title

AUCKLAND, March 26, (Reuters) John Ngugi became the first man in modern times to win three successive world cross-country titles, leading Kenya to an overwhelming victory in the men's team event today.

In a repeat of last year's 12-km race, Ngugi pushed compatriot Paul Kipkoech into second place. Another Kenyan, 37-year-old hillfarmer William Koskei, finished a distant third.

In an unprecedented clean sweep the Kenyan team, revelling in the perfect running conditions at Eilersie racecourse, took eight of the first nine places.

Domination

Earlier, Ingrid Kristiansen of Norway extended her domination of long-distance running to the cross-country arena by winning the women's race.

Both the senior races, run in bright sunshine on a lush grass carpet, featured a breakaway by two athletes early on.

Kristiansen and Britain's Angela Tooby took the women's event by the scruff of the neck while Ngugi and Kipkoech moved well out of range of the rest of the 210-strong field on the third of five laps.

Kipkoech, the world 10,000 metres champion, stayed on the shoulder of the long-limbed ambulant Ngugi until the fourth lap, as the two built a 200-metre lead.

But Ngugi upped the pace with three kilometres to go, shaking



Ngugi on his way to the finish followed by Kipkoech. (Reuters wirephoto)

off his rival whom he knew he had a faster finish. The 25-year-old civil servant sat on a 150-metre lead over the final lap to become the first runner since Englishman Jack Holden in 1935 to win three times in a row.

Ethiopia's Abebe Mekonnen, second to Ngugi in 1986 in Switzerland, broke the Kenyan stran-

glehold by finishing fifth. Paul Arpin of France, third last year, was the first non-African home in 11th place.

The depth of Kenyan athletics was further demonstrated in the junior race. Wilfred Kirochi retained the title he won in Warsaw last year as Kenyan runners filled six of the first seven plac-



Kristiansen throws her arms high as she breaks the finish tape. (Reuters wirephoto)

ings.

Kristiansen made light of the heat to race home in 19 minutes four seconds. The 32-year-old finished about 100 metres ahead of Tooby with defending champion Annette Sergent of France in third place.

The win continues an extraordinary run of form for Kristian-

sen, who had finished third twice before at world championships including last year in Warsaw.

Over the past three years she has won world and European 10,000 metres gold medals, set world records at 5,000 and 10,000 metres and broke the world marathon best time.

"I have tried to win this race

for many years and I'm now very pleased to win," she said later.

"It's always nice to win a world championship and it's especially nice to win in the build-up to the Olympics."

Any worries that last week-end's victory in the world 15-km road race in the 40 degree heat of Adelaide would affect Kristiansen dissolved as she and Tooby set a blistering pace from the gun.

By the end of the first of the three laps of the six-km race, the two women were 50 metres ahead of the rest.

Kristiansen, wearing white gloves to wipe away the sweat from her forehead, stayed at Tooby's shoulder before making her move ascending the punishing hill on the second lap.

The Norwegian extended her lead remorselessly and seemed to have plenty to spare as she neared the finishing line.

Packed

Kristiansen punched the air with joy as she crossed the line while the packed stands at Eilersie racecourse rose to salute a worthy Norwegian successor to Grete Waitz, who won the title five times from 1978 to 1983.

Tooby, the great British hope following the late withdrawal of South African-born Zola Budd, eased in well clear of Sergent who also finished third in 1986.

Kristiansen told journalists she would return to Norway in two days time to prepare for the London marathon on April 17.

UNITED TAME WEST HAM TO REMAIN IN 2ND PLACE

Liverpool return to winning form

LONDON, March 26, (Reuters): Liverpool top scorer John Aldridge returned from injury and thrust the runaway English League leaders back on their winning ways against Wimbledon today.

Ireland international striker Aldridge, who missed the last four matches because of groin trouble, headed a 33rd-minute goal to put Liverpool on course for a 2-1 win that John Barnes sealed with a second-half strike.

Aldridge's goal in blustery conditions at Anfield was his 22nd of the season in all competitions and helped to maintain a 14-point lead for Liverpool, who have now won 23 of their 31 First Division Games.

Dented

The result also enabled Liverpool to regain a measure of the pride which had been dented when city rivals Everton inflicted their first League defeat of 1987-88 last Sunday, ending a record-equaling 29-match sequence from the start of a season.

Liverpool's irresistible form has left the rest of the division chasing shadows, with Manchester United staying in second place after a 3-1 home win against West Ham.

Defending champions Everton beat bottom club Watford 2-1 away to remain in third place,



Tottenham's Gary Mabbutt (2nd left) gets the better of Forest's Brian Rice and Nigel Clough (2nd right) (Reuters wirephoto)

England forward Peter Beardsley figured prominently as the leaders seized the initiative. Beardsley tormented a Wimbledon defence weakened by

injury and suspension, and he was only denied a goal to crown his superb individual performance when his 83rd minute effort crashed against the bar.

Liverpool, chasing their second League and Football Association (FA) Cup double in three seasons, went ahead when Steve Nicol crossed from the right and Aldridge looped a header over goalkeeper Dave Beasant.

Results	
English Division One	
Charlton 0	Oxford 0
Chelsea 0	Southampton 1
Derby 0	Arsenal 1
Liverpool 2	Wimbledon 1
Manchester U 3	West Ham 1
Newcastle 2	Covey 2
Norwich 0	Sheffield Wed 3
Portsmouth 0	QPR 1
Tottenham 1	Notts Forest 1
Watford 1	Everton 2
English Division Two	
Aston Villa 0	Stoke 1
Barnsley 3	Manchester C 1
Bournemouth 0	Leeds 0
Huddersfield 1	West Brom 3
Leicester 2	Hull 1
Middlesbrough 1	Birmingham 1
Oldham 2	Shrewsbury 2
Plymouth 3	Blackburn 0
Sheff Wed 4	Ipswich 1
English Division Three	
Aldershot 0	Fulham 3
Brentford 1	Brighton 1
Bristol City 2	Rotherham 0
Grimsby 2	Northampton 2
Mansfield 1	Chester 2

Notts County 0	Gillingham 1
Port Vale 2	Walsall 1
Preston 1	Bury 0
York 2	Sunderland 1

Played yesterday:	
Doncaster 0	Bristol R 1
Southend 3	Cherfield 0
Wigan 0	Blackpool 0

English Division Four	
Bolton 0	Rochdale 0
Carlisle 0	Scarbrough 0
Crew 0	Exeter 0
Hartlepool 1	Scarbrough 0
Hereford 0	Stockport 0
Leyton 0	3 Swans 0
Peterborough 1	Halifax 0
Wolves 5	Darlington 3
Wrexham 4	Newport 1
Played yesterday:	
Colchester 0	Cambridge 0
Tranmere 3	Carlisle 0
Scottish Premier Division	
Aberdeen 2	Falkirk 0
Celtic 0	Dundee U 0
Dundee 2	Rangers 3
Hearts 2	Morton 0
Motherwell 3	Dunfermline 2
St Mirren 1	Hibernian 1
Scottish Division One	
Clydebank 1	Dumbarton 0
Hamilton 1	Airdrie 0
Meadowbank 3	Forfar 0
Partick 1	Clyde 0
Queen of S 1	Kilmarnock 0
Raith 0	East Fife 1
Scottish Division Two	
Arbroath 0	Brechin 3
Berwick 2	Stranraer 0
Cowdenbeath 1	Albion 0
E. Stirling 1	Stenhousemuir 2
Montrose 0	Alloa 2
Queen's Park 2	St. Johnstone 1
Stirling 2	Ayr 1

Nigeria seek revenge and crown

CASABLANCA, March 26, (Reuters): The Green Eagles of Nigeria will have a glint of revenge in their eyes when they meet the Indomitable Lions of Cameroon tomorrow in the final of the 16th Africa Nations Cup soccer tournament.

The two teams met once before in the final of Africa's most prestigious soccer event. Cameroon won that 1984 encounter 3-1 in tropical Ivory Coast.

Brutal

For the rematch in Morocco, the Lions are considered slight favourites after conquering the host nation Morocco 1-0 in Wednesday's bruising semifinal.

However, Nigeria's direct attacking style of play could still rattle their solid defence. The Green Eagles booked their place

in the final after a dramatic semifinal penalty shootout with Algeria.

Battle-hardened Cameroun are as strong as ever for their third consecutive Africa Nations Cup final. They hope to go one step further than in 1986 when they lost the coveted African soccer crown to Egypt.

Claude le Roy, their French coach, thinks the Green Eagles will be difficult to beat "because of their great athletic ability and their committed football."

He told Reuters it would be tough to contain players of the calibre of Rashidi Yekini up front and Sam Owaraji in the midfield.

"Our team will be about the same as in the semifinals. There

are no new injury problems and defender Benjamin Masing came back after his two-game suspension," he said.

"Francis Omani Biyick and Eugene Ekeke have not yet recovered from leg injuries," he added.

Brilliant

Biyick, a terrific goal-scorer with French club Laval, and his fellow attacker Ekeke missed the semifinal against Morocco.

Nigeria's West German coach Manfred Hoener told Reuters he would be forced to make changes in his lineup.

"We have a badly injured defender, Sunny Eboigbo, and midfielder Ademola Adesina is suspended after being sent off (against Algeria)," he said.

Hoener said Anderlecht of Belgium star Stephen Keshi could take the sweeper role. Keshi, a brilliant defender, has been shuttling back and forth between Africa and Europe because of commitments.

He missed the semifinals but played in Nigeria's Group B qualifying match against Cameroun last week, which ended in a 1-1 draw.

Hoener said Keshi was one of the top players in Nigeria's recent success in qualifying for this year's Olympic Games soccer tournament.

The coach said Cameroun were technically stronger than Nigeria. "But nowadays football is more athletic and powerful and we should have a chance," he added.

Australia shine in rugby tourney

HONG KONG, March 26, (Reuters): Australia's backline sparked on the first day of the annual Hong Kong Sevens Rugby Union tournament today, running in 14 tries in their first two matches.

Fijian Wing Aca Niugila, who plays club rugby in Australia, scored a hat-trick in each of his side's 46-4 and 32-0 wins over Dubai Exiles and Japan.

The Australians will play Italy in tomorrow's quarterfinals and are joined by the French Barbarians, who meet the British invitation side Penguins, Argen-

tina, who play Fiji, and New Zealand, who meet the Irish Wolfhounds.

Fiji demolished the opposition in their two group matches, wing Mansas Qoro scoring four tries in a 46-0 defeat of Singapore. The Fijians, four-time winners of the tournament, also beat South Korea 32-0.

Fumbled

Argentina crushed Brunei 32-0 but only scraped through 12-9 against Canada, while New Zealand fumbled the ball in a 28-6 win over Kwang Hua Taipei

and against Spain were jeered by the 20,000 crowd for time-wasting.

Penguins, armed with three All Blacks, mauled Papua New Guinea 36-0, but looked less impressive in defeating hosts Hong Kong 14-0.

Italy secured their quarterfinal berth against Australia with the last kick of their match against Western Samoa, flyhalf Massimo Bonomi's conversion ensuring a 12-10 win.

The French Barbarians outplayed Tonga 20-0 and the Netherlands 16-6 in their group.

Real fined

GENEVA, March 26, (Reuters): Real Madrid have been fined a total of 19,000 Swiss francs (\$13,775) for player and crowd misbehaviour during a Champions' Cup tie, the European Football Union (UEFA) said.

The Spanish champions were fined 12,000 francs (\$8,700) for offences committed by their players during the game against West Germany's Bayern Munich, who were fined 7,000 francs (\$5,075) for the same reason.

Real were also fined 7,000 francs (\$5,075) because fireworks were set off during the quarterfinal match.

Board XI struggle against Pakistan

GEORGETOWN, Guyana, March 26, (Reuters): Pakistan captain Imran Khan took a wicket with successive balls today to reduce the West Indies Board XI to 181 for six in their first innings at lunch on the third day of their four-day cricket match.

Imran took two for 19 in a fiery six-over spell to give him overall figures of four for 55 off 15 overs.

The Board XI, replying to Pakistan's 495 for nine declared, need a further 165 runs to avoid the follow-on.

Imran, playing only his second first-class match after a three-month layoff, comprehensively bowled Rabinranath Serman for 25 with an inswinger then trapped Roger Harper lbw with his next ball with an off-cutter.

Caught

The other wicket to fall in the morning session was that of Desmond Collymore, caught and bowled by occasional leg-spinner Salim Malik just before lunch for 25.

The only batsman to offer any real resistance was left-hander Keith Arthurton, who was not out 57 at lunch.

Yesterday a chanceless maiden double century by Shoaib Mohammed steered Pakistan to a first innings of 495 for nine declared.

Shoaib, who batted for exactly eight and a half hours up to the tea declaration, was unbeaten on 208 after a knock which included 25 fours and scarcely a bad shot.

Resuming at 269 for three yesterday, Pakistan lost nightwatchman Hafiz Shahid and Salim



Imran: fiery spell

Malik in the space of three balls. Shahid was bowled for 10 by young pacesman Ian Bishop in the second over and in the next Salim Malik edged on outswinger from Tony Gray and was caught by Phil Simmons at first slip for one.

Ejaz Ahmed, who has been short of runs on the tour, again missed out when he slashed at a delivery from Bishop and was caught by Gray in the slips for 19. Shoaib and Imran (29) added 71 for the seventh wicket before the skipper, trying to force the pace against offspinner Roger Harper, lifted a catch to lodg-off.

Salim Yusuf lifted the tempo with three fours off offspinner Clyde Butts but was leg before to left-arm medium pacer Desmond Collymore for 30.

When Abdul Qadir was run out six minutes before the scheduled tea for 10, Shoaib needed three for his double hundred which he reached off 378 balls.

Late news

A FINE, unbeaten 108 by Keith Arthurton lifted the West Indies Board XI to 271 for seven at tea, still 75 short of the follow on.

Popova stuns Batorfi

PARIS, March 26, (Reuters): Defending women's singles champion Csilla Batorfi of Hungary was toppled from her throne by Soviet predecessor Valentina Popova in the fourth round of the European Championships today.

Second seed Bettine Vriesekoop of the Netherlands, European champion in 1982, and third seed Daniela Gergelcheva of Bulgaria also failed to make the last eight, leaving number one Filura Bulatova of the Soviet Union the lone top five survivor.

Ranked

Fourth seed Batorfi, who was only 17 when she took the title in Prague two years ago, won her opening game easily but failed to take another against Popova, ranked only 13th for this tournament and no longer the leading light of the Soviet team.

Popova, European champion in 1980 and 1984, won 9-21 21-17 23-21 23-21 to qualify for a quarterfinal clash against 15th seed Gordana Perkucin of Yugoslavia, whom she beat in the 1980 final. Perkucin beat unseeded Hungarian Gabriella Wirth 21-19 21-18 21-10.

Vriesekoop looked headed for victory when she took a two-game lead against Barbo Wiktorsson but lost her way and succumbed 17-21 8-21 21-18 21-11 21-16 to the 16th-seeded Swede.

Gergelcheva lost in four games to 14th seed Jasna Fazlic of Yugoslavia, while Bulatova stayed on track with victory in four games over 11th seed Mirjam Kloppenburg of the Netherlands.

Yesterday England's Carl Preen exacted swift revenge on Swedish second seed Erik Lindh as four of the men's top six were bundled out of the championships.

Poles Andrzej Grubba and Leszek Kucharski, seeded fourth and fifth, and sixth-seeded Englishman Desmond Douglas also crashed out short of the last 16. Preen overwhelmed Lindh 21-15 21-15 21-16 to avenge the defeat he suffered against the Swede in the team event final which decisively turned the encounter in Sweden's favour.

But Preen was left shouldering the English challenge alone as Douglas, Alan Cooke, Skylet Andrew and Nicky Mason all dipped out.

Lloyd wins final kart race to clinch Novices Cup

By Gail Seery

SIMON LLOYD took his first victory in Friday's final race of the season at Ahmadi kart track, clinching third place in the KNDC and also winning the Novices Cup. Up till Friday the novices category was led by Eric Andrews, but Lloyd managed to steal it in the final race.

Lloyd had his best day's driving so far, after a season spent in gradually gaining valuable racing experience. It was good to see the rostrum occupied entirely by drivers who were novices at the start of the season. Eric Andrews, despite some very good driving in earlier heats, was beaten back into third position, with Paul Gandy coming in second.

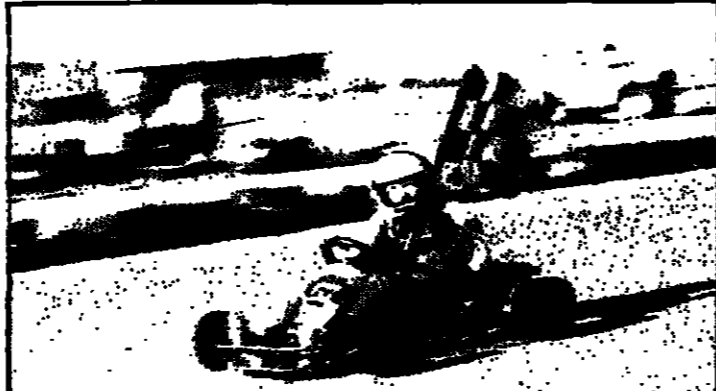
There were more drivers on the track on Friday, and it really made all the difference to the level of racing. A total of nine drivers turned out, excluding Rob Baker, the KNDC Champion who was barred from driving following his statement to this newspaper, and Jeff Butt.

Consistency

Newcomers were Steve Downing in kart 10, Tony Catling in kart 11 and David Haines driving kart 12. Louise Tait, who did so well in the Ladies' championship was for the first, and sadly, the only time, racing against the men. She drove with a consistency, and particularly in the light of her youth, a commendable tenacity which saw her finish every race.

Friday's race was the final round of the KNDC (Kuwait National Drivers' Championship), which had already been won by Rob Baker, who had notched an uncatchable 51 points over the first six races. Jeff Butt was lying in second place with 26 points, but was not racing on Friday. This meant that there was a battle going on for the second, third and fourth positions.

Dennis Fulcher started the day

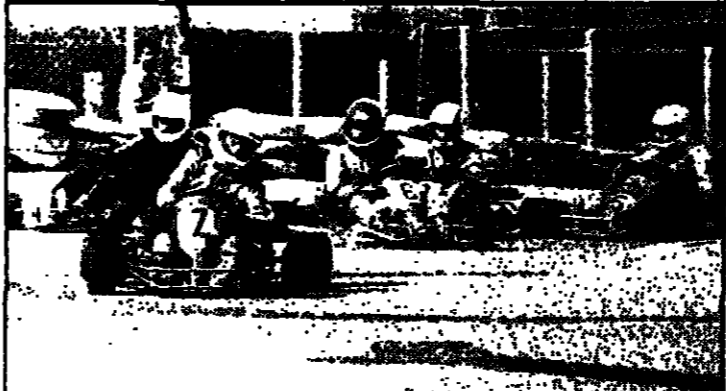


Lloyd takes the chequered flag to win the race and title.

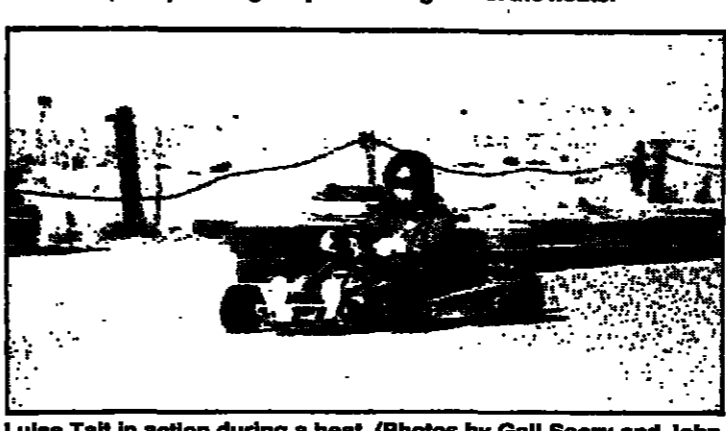


Lloyd (centre), Andrews (right) and Gandy on the victory stand.

knowing that if he won he would take second place from Butt. This was not to be. Before the final race he complained that he lacked power in his engine. He added that Lloyd and Gandy's karts were more powerful than his, putting him at a serious disadvantage. "Once they get in front I can't catch them," he said. The first four races of the day



Andrews (No. 7) leading the pack during one of the heats.



Louise Tait in action during a heat. (Photos by Gail Seery and John Bradley)

were heats to determine which driver would start from pole position. In the first race Lloyd won, Gandy was second, Fulcher third, Andrews fourth, Downing fifth. Tait sixth and Thomas seventh. Catling and Haines both went out on the second lap. In Race two, Andrews took a convincing win, with Downing second, Fulcher third, Lloyd

In the final, Lloyd took pole, with Gandy in antipole, and Andrews and Fulcher behind.

Lloyd went into an immediate lead, pursued closely by Gandy, Andrews and Fulcher, who was being challenged by Downing, Thomas, Catling, Tait and Haines were trailing behind.

Lloyd and Gandy spent the rest of the twelve lap race lengthening their lead over the other drivers, while further back Andrews, Fulcher and Downing were fighting for third place, and Louise Tait was falling to the back of the field.

Changed

Nothing else happened however. No-one span off, no-one was forced to retire through mechanical problems and no-one else changed their race position. The final order was Lloyd, Gandy, Andrews, Downing, Fulcher, Thomas, Catling, Haines and Tait.

It was good to see more drivers participating, as this is what the club desperately needs. The season has now ended, but the club will be holding its AGM at the kart track at 7.30pm on April 4.

KNDC results after all 7 rounds:

1. Rob Baker 51 points; 2. Jeff Butt 26 points; 3. Simon Lloyd 24 points; 4. Dennis Fulcher 22 points; 5. Eric Andrews 19 points; 6. Richard Thomas 16 points; 7. Paul Gandy 12 points.

ACC (Ahmadi Challenge Cup) points:

1. Eric Andrews 210 points; 2. Jeff Butt 207 points; 3. Simon Lloyd 200 points; 4. Paul Gandy 199 points; 5. Dennis Fulcher 198 points; 6. Rob Baker 186 points; 7. Richard Thomas 96 points.

Novices Cup:

1. Simon Lloyd 48 points; 2. Eric Andrews 45 points; 3. Paul Gandy 28 points.

Ladies Cup:

1. Sue Andrews; 2. Jillian Burns; 3. Simmi Butt; 4. Louise Tait; 5. Tina Matthews.

SPORTS BRIEFS

World Cup

MEXICO CITY, March 26, (Reuters): You could hardly call it World Cup fever... but reports that the world's four-yearly soccer tournament could be back here in 1990 have Mexican fans itching. Newspapers were full of it yesterday... reports of a problem in Italy, planned site of the 1990 finals... and that Mexico might be called upon to host the soccer extravaganza for the second straight time.

Asian taekwondo

KATHMANDU, March 26, (Xinhua): South Korea bagged almost all gold medals in the 8th Asian Taekwondo Championships which closed here last evening. The South Koreans took 15 golds in 16 events, and the Chinese Taipei team won one gold, 11 silvers and five bronzes.

Local cricket

NEW Young Stars beat Bohree XI by 46 runs at the Church ground on Friday. New Young Stars, batting first, scored 120 in 19 overs. In reply Bohree XI were all out for 74. Wahed took three wickets for 16, Ashfaq three for 19, Liaquat two for six and Saqib one for 14.

Clive Allen

LONDON, March 26, (Reuters): Tottenham Hotspur and England striker Clive Allen is set to join French soccer champions Bordeaux in a £1 million (\$1.84 million) deal.

1996 Games

SAN FRANCISCO, California, March 26, (UPI): Citing "enormous implications to the city in costs for housing athletes and for security," mayor Art Agnos refused to sign an agreement to keep San Francisco's bid alive for the 1996 Summer Olympic Games.

Mike Tyson

BERNARDSVILLE, New Jersey, March 26, (AP): Heavyweight boxing champion Mike Tyson yesterday completed the purchase of a mansion in the central New Jersey community of Bernardsville, which is home to several other celebrities, a real estate spokeswoman said.

Algeria win

CASABLANCA, March 26, (Reuters): Algeria beat Morocco in a penalty shootout 4-3 after a 1-1 draw (half-time 0-0) in a third place playoff in the Africa Nations Cup today.

Lincoln Handicap

DONCASTER, England, March 26, (Reuters): Outsider Curlew Charlie, made the Lincoln Handicap a bookmaker's benefit today, winning by a head from Silver Haze.

W. German soccer

BONN, March 26, (Reuters): Werder Bremen, chasing a League and Cup treble at home and in Europe, overcame Bayern Munich 3-1 in a controversial clash today to take a commanding four-point lead at the top of the West German First Division.

Frost and Sugiarto sail through

TOULOUSE, France, March 26, (Reuters): Denmark's Morten Frost and Indonesian Ick Sugiarto enjoyed easy quarterfinal victories at the French Open badminton championships yesterday but second-seeded Chinese Zhao Jianhua failed to make the last four.

Unseeded Han Kuk Sung of South Korea beat Zhao 15-11 5-15 15-12, taking advantage of an opponent still tired from his efforts in the Thomas Cup.

Frost, ranked second in the world, had trouble early on against the deceptive play of Thailand's Kukasemkij Sompol, who held him to 13-13 in the first set, before winning 18-15 15-11.

Scraped

In the women's singles, top-seeded South Korean Hwang Hye Yung had difficulty defeating Japanese Koizumi Yoko, but finally scraped through 9-11 12-9 11-7.

Second-seeded Lee Yung Suk of South Korea beat European champion Helen Troke of England, who was suffering an achilles tendon injury.

China's Gu Jiaming, hot favourite to win her second title within a week after the All-England, beat Kimiko Junnae of Japan 11-7 11-11.

Bridge

RESULTS of Sheraton Bridge Club's "Marathon Bridge" game held on Friday.

1. Sherin Basim and Ahmed Hossaini
2. Ahmed Tawil and Mansour Sabri
3. Adly Tiah & Magdi Medard
4. M. Merchant & M. Zafar
5. Ibrahim Qattani & Desmond Pereira

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